



Western Hermann's Tortoise (*Testudo hermanni hermanni*)

Size: Head and body length, 11.9 - 18.3 cm **Weight:** 365 - 1,350 g **Habitat:** Densely wooded hillsides and gentle slopes with coarse vegetation in coastal areas of southern France, Italy and Spain

Surviving number: Unknown; populations declining



Photographed by Ingo Arndt

WILDLIFE AS CANON SEES IT

Hot or not? It's a question of considerable importance to the western Hermann's tortoise, as heat plays a key role in its life. For eight to ten days after emerging from hibernation, the tortoise ventures out during the warmest parts of the day to bask; this speeds its metabolism and inspires it to greater activity. Heat also determines the number of males or females that hatch, with hotter nest temperatures resulting in more females. When the

mercury rises too high, however, it can kill the mother as she lays eggs. With human encroachment threatening to upset the delicate balance in which it lives, the tortoise is now really feeling the heat.

As we see it, we can help make the world a better place. Raising awareness of endangered species is just one of the ways we at Canon are taking action—for the good of the planet we call home. Visit canon.com/environment to learn more.

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