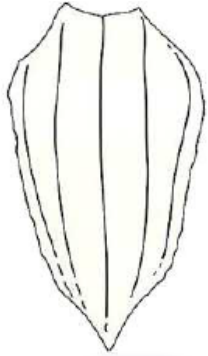


Sea Turtle Identification Guide

A guide to the turtles of South Africa

Carapace

- No scales
- 5 distinct ridges
- No claws

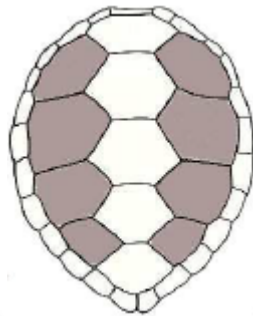


Dermochelys coriacea
(Leatherback turtle)
Nesting species

Carapace

- Large scales
- No continuous ridges
- Claws on flippers

4 pairs of costal scales



Caretta caretta
(Loggerhead turtle)
Nesting species

5 pairs of costal scales

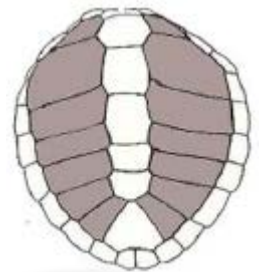
- Bony carapace with truncated back
- Red/brown to brown in colour



Lepidochelys olivacea
(Olive Ridley turtle)
Vagrant occasional migrating species

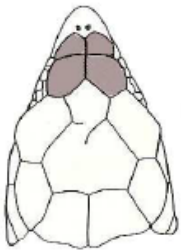
6 pairs of costal scales

- Carapace more or less circular
- Green/Grey in colour



2 pairs of prefrontal scales (head)

- Thick overlapping carapace scales
- 2 claws on flippers



Eretmochelys imbricata
(Hawksbill turtle)
Foraging species

1 pair of prefrontal scales (head)

- No thick overlapping carapace scales
- 1 claw on flippers



Chelonia mydas
(Green turtle)
Foraging species