

Common Musk Turtle

Sternotherus odoratus

Identification

- 2 - 4.5 inches.
- Two light yellow stripes on each side of head.
- Small barbels under chin and on throat.
- Carapace dark and often coated with algae.
- Plastron small with single hinge.
- Often emits foul scent when disturbed.
- **Habitat** – Calm or slow moving water with soft bottom. More common where there is abundant aquatic vegetation. Sometimes seen prowling along bottom.
- **Threats** – Nest predation, cars, and to some extent being killed by fishermen.
- **Conservation Status** – Common.



Description based on Peterson's Reptiles and Amphibians, Conant/Collins