

Two-headed turtle born in Malaysia

July 18 2019



A baby turtle with two heads born in Malaysia

A two-headed baby turtle has been born in Malaysia, captivating conversationists, but it only survived a few days after being discovered.

It was found Monday on Mabul island, off the Malaysian part of Borneo, in a nest alongside more than 90 other recently hatched [green turtles](#).

David McCann, [marine biologist](#) and conservation manager for group SJ SEAS—which oversees the nesting site—said the creature was "utterly fascinating."

"The right head seems to control the front right flipper, and the left head the front left flipper. Yet they are capable of coordinating their movements in order to walk and swim," he said in a statement.

SJ SEAS chairman Mohamad Khairuddin Riman added: "We have released around 13,000 hatchlings from the hatchery and have never seen anything like this before."

But the turtle died late Wednesday, Sen Nathan, a vet from Sabah Wildlife Department, told AFP.

He said the cause of death was not yet known but added the turtle would have had little chance of surviving long in the wild.

"It would have been poached by an eagle because it could not swim well," he said.

While rare, it was not the first time a two-headed baby turtle has been found.



The turtle would probably not have survived long in the wild, a vet from Sabah Wildlife Department said

Nathan said one was discovered in 2014, on an island off Malaysia's east coast, which survived for three months.

Green turtles are one of the largest sea [turtles](#), and are mainly found in tropical and subtropical waters.

Classified as endangered, they are threatened by [habitat loss](#) as well as by poachers who hunt them for their meat and eggs.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: Two-headed turtle born in Malaysia (2019, July 18) retrieved 20 September 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-07-two-headed-turtle-born-malaysia.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.