



temple pond, and Nazira. Longchar (2017) reported it from the hilly terrain of Wokha District, Nagaland. This has been reported in a newspaper and so far, not published in peer-reviewed journal.

The present account describes reporting of a live turtle photographed in Langting-Mupa Reserved Forest of Dima Hasao District (North Cachar Hills) in central Assam. On 17 March 2017, a turtle was photographed and observed closely near Hajong Lake (25.362N, 93.232E), a natural waterbody inside dense forest. This lake is also popularly known as 'turtle lake' and is given protection by forest department owing to occurrence and sightings of turtles in the wild. However, this lake was never treated by locals as a 'temple lake' as there are a few across Assam where devotees sometimes release turtles caught elsewhere. This lake is well inside a reserved forest with no temple in the vicinity. The patrolling staff of the department found it near the lake on land and brought it to the camp. Their motto was to release it back to the lake but since it was found on land, they wanted to see whether any injury was there. Its carapace was low and oval, and dark-grey in colouration, large head, plastron whitish and faint grey with four large callosities. The straight carapace length was 30.15 cm and straight carapace width was 17.5 cm. Its identification was further confirmed by expert (Firoz Ahmed pers. comm.).

Hajong Lake and its surrounding area has been notified as a Biodiversity Heritage Site in 2022 and in the list of fauna, *Nilssonina nigricans* has been mentioned and Fishing Cat *Prionailurus viverrinus* of which there is no record (ASBB 2024). Listing the turtle with species without any record indicates that the veracity of the list may need a recheck. The source of information

or any publication reference has also not been mentioned. No methodology has been mentioned as to how the data was obtained.

In India, *Nilssonina nigricans* species is known from Brahmaputra floodplains except the record from Wokha and Hajong Lake (this report) which are from hilly terrain.

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