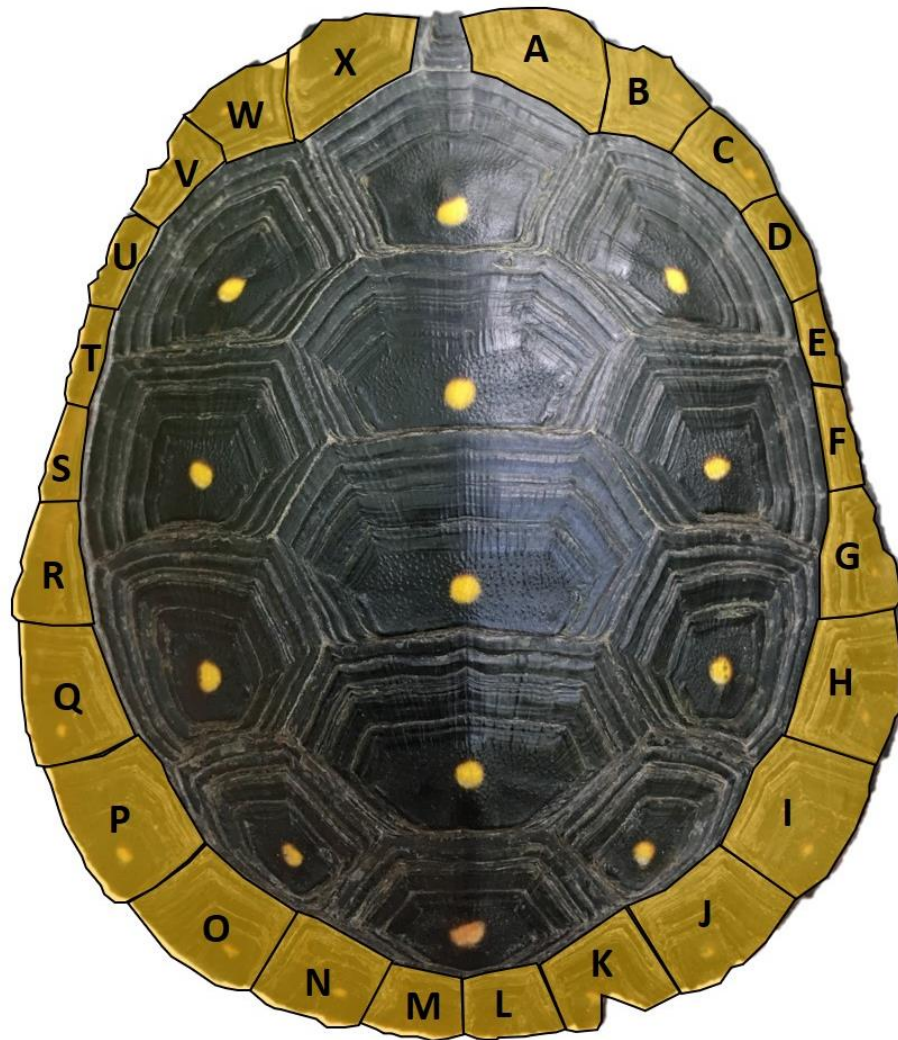


## SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CODING SYSTEM FOR CAPTIVE BOX TURTLES AND SPOTTED TURTLES



Alphabetical coding system applied to a Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*), as viewed dorsally on the carapace with anterior end up. The first marginal scute on the right side is always "A". The notches on each marginal can be created using a knife or a triangular metal file and should extend at least halfway into the marginal scute (illustrated in "K"). Hatchlings can be marked with small scissors or fingernail clippers. Marks on the shells of terrestrial and freshwater turtles do not damage the turtle but are permanent, being identifiable as many as 30 years after initial marking.