

**Antibiotic resistant bacteria from *Clemmys guttata* (spotted turtle)**

[Put your names here—whatever sequence you want.]

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Antibiotic resistant bacteria have been reported in wild birds and mammals, even from remote regions such as the Amazon River Basin. The spread of acquired resistance is believed to be the result of widespread release of antibiotics from agriculture and human and veterinary medicine. We compared antibiotic resistance in enteric bacteria isolated from spotted turtles that are part of a reintroduction program. The turtles bred at the Seneca Park Zoo. Twelve of the turtles have been in captivity since they hatched, and three have been released and radio-tracked at the reintroduction site in Monroe County, NY. Bacteria resistant to antibiotics commonly used in agriculture and medicine (notably Erythromycin, Streptomycin, and Polymyxin B 300) have been isolated from both groups of turtles. Wild populations of spotted turtles occur in New York, and we plan to sample turtles from these populations to evaluate the incidence of antibiotic resistance in turtles that have never had direct contact with humans.