

**Table 5.4.** Sea turtle dichotomous key

<b>1A.</b> No scutes on carapace, only dorsal ridges running along the length of the body; leathery skin .....	leatherback ( <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i> )
<b>1B.</b> Scutes on hard carapace .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2A.</b> Four costal scutes on carapace; nuchal scutes separate from costal scutes (Fig. 5.31 C) .....	<b>3</b>
<b>2B.</b> Five or more costal scutes on carapace .....	<b>5</b>
<b>3A.</b> Two pairs of prefrontal scales on head (Fig. 5.31 D); pointed curved beak with distinct overbite, tan, brown, and black, narrow carapace with streaks, cream plastron with dark blotches; carapace scutes overlap .....	hawkbill ( <i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i> )
<b>3B.</b> One pair of prefrontal scales on head (Fig. 5.31 D) .....	<b>4</b>
<b>4A.</b> Serrated lower jaw; rounded face; brown or black carapace with radiating streaks; white or yellow plastron .....	green ( <i>Chelonia mydas</i> )
<b>4B.</b> Uprturned edges on flattened olive-grey carapace; range limited to tropical coastal Australia and Indonesia .....	flatback ( <i>Natator depressus</i> )
<b>5A.</b> Carapace not circular, often heart-shaped; large head; reddish-brown carapace always longer than wide .....	loggerhead ( <i>Caretta caretta</i> )
<b>5B.</b> Carapace almost circular .....	<b>6</b> <i>Lepidochelys</i>
<b>6A.</b> Usually five costal scutes on grey or olive green carapace; triangular head; white or yellow plastron; range limited to coastal western Atlantic ocean basin and Gulf of Mexico; rarely occurs south of 16° N latitude .....	Kemp's ridley ( <i>L. kempii</i> )
<b>6B.</b> Six to nine costal scutes on grey or olive green carapace; triangular head; cream-colored plastron .....	olive ridley ( <i>L. olivacea</i> )