

Tortoises in the Mist



Tortoises in the mist on the crater rim above the caldera of Volcan Alcedo, Albemarle Island (Isabela), July 1986. During dry periods tortoises migrate from the dry caldera floor up to the crater rim where the mist (*garua*) of the cloud-catchment drip zone provides them the moisture they need. See the preceding editorial prologue and the account on pp. 71–73 for further details. Photo by Peter C.H. Pritchard.

Tortoises in the mist
timeless creatures, moisture-kissed
neath shrouded trees and mossy lace
since eons past, still exist.

On crater rim, a magic place
tortoises move, at their pace
from caldera floor below
ponderous steps, gentle grace.

Ringed by fire, lava flows
spared the whalers' deadly blows
survive serene, Alcedo home
enchanted isles, Galápagos.

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