



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
U. S. NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 90

Washington : 1941

No. 3115

NOTES ON MEXICAN TURTLES OF THE GENUS
KINOSTERNON

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WHEN changes of nomenclature become necessary it is desirable that the painful operation be performed as soon as possible; hence the preparation of this paper. At the same time the opportunity is taken to publish the description of a hitherto unnamed geographic race of a long-recognized species, the result of a study of the genus *Kinosternon* Spix still in progress.

KINOSTERNON ACUTUM Gray

- 1831. *Kinosternon scorpioides* α *acuta* GRAY, Synopsis reptilium, p. 34 (pl. 7, fig. 1) (no locality; type in British Museum); Cat. Tort. Brit. Mus., 1844, p. 33 (Central America); Cat. Shield Rept. Brit. Mus., pt. 1, March 8, 1856, p. 44 (Central America); Hand-list Shield Rept. Brit. Mus., 1873, p. 61 (Central America).
- 1865. *Cinosternum berendtianum* COPE, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia, 1865, p. 189 (type locality, Tabasco, Mexico; cotypes, U.S.N.M. No. 6517; C. H. Berendt, collector).
- 1869. *Swanka maculata* GRAY, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1869, p. 162 (type locality, Cosamaloapam, Veracruz, Mexico; cotype in British Museum; Mr. Sallé, collector) (in part).
- 1873. *Cinosternon effeldtii* PETERS, Monatsb. Berlin Akad. Wiss., 1873, p. 603, pl. 5, figs. 1-3 (type locality, "angeblich" Mexico, Veracruz; type in Berlin Mus.).
- 1885. *Cinosternum leucostomum* GÜNTHER, Biol. Centr.-Amer., Rept., p. 17 (part) pl. 16 (Cosamaloapam, Veracruz, Mexico; Guatemala) (not of Duméril).

In 1831 J. E. Gray listed a *Kinosternon* specimen in the British Museum under the varietal name *acuta*, giving as a character "Sterno postico acuto integro," without mentioning any locality. In the

catalogue of 1844 he added that the specimen is from C[entral] America, that it is a dry preparation, and the "shell wants dorsal plates" [laminae]. In the Catalogue of Shield Reptiles (1856) he listed the same specimen as No. *c* under *Kinosternon scorpioides* "Var. 1. Hinder part of sternum entire." In the Handlist (1873) he finally gave the additional information that the shell is "elongate, $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches" [98.5 mm.]. These are all the details that have been published with regard to this specimen, which together with its name seems to have been completely overlooked by all subsequent students of the genus, even by Boulenger in his Catalogue of the Chelonians in the British Museum (1889). Not finding in the latter any indication as to whether Gray's type was still in existence, I wrote to Dr. H. W. Parker asking him if it might not be one of the unspecified specimens listed under *scorpioides* or *leucostomum*. Before the month was out I had his kind answer to the effect that he had located the specimen and that it is the one listed by Boulenger (Cat. Chelonians, p. 44) as specimen *e.* ♂, stffd. C. America, under *Cinosternum berendtianum*. The detailed measurements of it, which he communicated at the same time, agree closely with those of Cope's three cotypes proving that Boulenger's reference of it to this species was fully justified.

The critical measurements of the plastron of the type furnished by Dr. Parker are as follows: Length of plastron 91.2 mm., anterior lobe 27.5 mm., middle section 26.7 mm., posterior lobe 37.0 mm., gular 15.5 mm. The corresponding measurements of the largest male cotype of *K. berendtianum* (U.S.N.M. No. 106294) are as follows: 89, 28, 27, 34, and 17 mm.

"With regard to the locality of *acuta*," Dr. Parker writes, "there is a MS. addition in one of our copies of Gray's catalogue saying 'Honduras.' What authority there is for this I do not know." As Siebenrock lists a specimen from Lake Petén, Guatemala, the locality "Honduras" is probably correct.

Unwelcome as the change of name is, there can be no doubt as to the correctness of Boulenger's identification, and according to the International Code of Nomenclature the species will have to stand as *Kinosternon acutum*.

KINOSTERNON CRUENTATUM CONSORS, new subspecies

Diagnosis.—Three strong dorsal keels, rather close together; central laminae of carapace narrow; plastron filling opening of shell completely; posterior hinge of plastron straight; no emargination of posterior edge of plastron; similar to *K. cruentatum* Duméril, but shell averaging narrower and lower; front lobe of plastron averaging shorter and "midlobe" (the fixed part) longer.

Holotype.—U.S.N.M. No. 13912; ♂ adult; Cozumel Island, Yucatan, Mexico; collected by U.S.F.C.S. Albatross Expedition, 1885.

Paratypes.—U.S.N.M. Nos. 13910 ♀, 13911 ♀, 13913 ♀, same data as holotype; U.S.N.M. No. 6556 ♂, Yucatan, Progreso, A. Schott, collector; Philadelphia Acad. No. 94, Yucatan, A. Schott, collector.

Dimensions of holotype.—Length of carapace, 104 mm., width 68 mm.; length of plastron 97 mm.

Remarks.—Two species of the genus *Kinosternon* occur in Yucatan, viz, the present representative of *K. cruentatum* and the other *K. creaseri* described a few years ago by Dr. Norman Hartweg (Occas. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Michigan, No. 277, Jan. 2, 1934, p. 1) from specimens collected at Chichen Itza. Unfortunately he does not describe the dorsal keels and the width of the central laminae, but as he compares his specimens with *K. berendtianum* and as I have before me two specimens also from Chichen Itza, with broad central laminae, I have no reason to doubt that they belong to *K. creaseri* and that consequently two species are represented in the state of Yucatan.

Only six specimens, three males and three females, are available for the evaluation of this form, but they display such unusual uniformity that there is little doubt as to the justification of its nomenclatorial recognition. Moreover, the two specimens from the north coast of Yucatan agree so well with the Cozumel Island specimens that the latter can have no claim to be regarded as a purely insular race. The relationship to *K. cruentatum* is unmistakable, and while the differences separating them are of significant magnitude, there is enough overlap to make the application of a trinomial advisable.



Stejneger, Leonhard. 1941. "Notes on Mexican turtles of the genus Kinosternon." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 90(3115), 457–459. <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.3115.457>.

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5479/si.00963801.3115.457>

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