



*Emys concinna.*  
19

M. Leconte.

F.S. Duval. Lith. Phil<sup>a</sup>.



EMYS CONCINNA.—*Leconte*.*Plate XIX.*

CHARACTERS. Shell oval, smooth, ecarinate, emarginate behind, dusky brown, varied with yellow lines, more or less sub-reticulate.

SYNONYMES. *Testudo concinna*, *Leconte*, Ann. Lyc. Nat. Hist. N. Y., vol. iii. p. 106.

*Emys concinna*, *Dumeril et Bibron*, Hist. Nat. des Rept., tom. ii. p. 289.

DESCRIPTION. The shell is oval, entire in front, and emarginate behind, smooth and ecarinate. The first vertebral plate is hexagonal; the second and third are also hexagonal, with their lateral angles projecting; the fourth is hexagonal and less oblong than the others; the fifth is heptagonal, and broadest behind. Of the lateral plates, the first, second and third are pentagonal, and the fourth quadrangular. There are twenty-five marginal plates, the nuchal, or intermediate, is small and oblong; the first is somewhat pentagonal, and projects a little beyond the second: all the rest are more or less square or oblong; the ninth, tenth and eleventh each projecting its posterior face beyond the succeeding plate. The sternum is entire in front and emarginate behind; the brachial plates are triangular, with their apices truncate; the rest are more or less oblong or square; the jaws are firm, thin and cutting, with their edges sharp; the upper very slightly emarginate in front; the lower is furnished with an indistinct hook.

The anterior extremities are covered with scales above, and with scales and warts below. The fingers are five in number, palmate, and each armed with a nail. The posterior extremities are well developed, and covered with scales and granulations above and below. The tarsus is flattened, and sustains five fully



palmed toes, of which only the four internal are furnished with nails. The tail is moderately long, and broad at the root, but soon becomes slender.

**COLOUR.** The shell is dusky, varied with differently formed and differently disposed lines of yellow; those on the lateral plates are somewhat reticulate, and the spaces formed by them are frequently filled with short lines of yellow, all more or less confluent. The marginal plates are all marked either with a straight line or a sub-quadrangle of yellow. The sternum is yellow, as well as the marginal plates below, each having a large black spot at the junction; the wings have a dark longitudinal line.

The head and neck are black, striped with red or orange; the stripe on the neck bifurcates on the fore part, one branch running to the eye, the other to the chin, so that the jaw is embraced between them; the stripe on the chin bifurcates posteriorly a short distance from its origin, and running along the throat, includes a shorter stripe between its branches. The jaws are striped with yellow. The eyes are yellow, with a broad black stripe through the middle. The anterior extremities are dusky, striped with red or orange above, and below with three transverse and two horizontal lines of the same colour. The posterior are dusky, obscurely striped with red above, and irregularly marked with orange and yellow beneath. The tail is striped with red above and yellow below.

**DIMENSIONS.** Length,  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches; elevation,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

**GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.** This species is found in the Savannah and Congaree rivers, where their beds are rocky, and are not seen below Augusta on the one, nor Columbia on the other river.

**GENERAL REMARKS.** This is another fine species of Emys, first observed and described by Leconte, and as I have never yet had an opportunity of examining the entire animal, I have in this place done no more than reproduce his observations, and to him I am indebted for the beautiful plate that accompanies this

description. Some herpetologists appear to be in doubt about this animal. Harlan supposes it to be the *Emys reticulata*, to which it bears no resemblance, as may be seen by comparing the figures of the two animals; the shell of one is gibbous, that of the other flattened; the one is strongly wrinkled or rugous, the other is smooth, and the colour and marking are entirely unlike each other. Dumeril and Bibron, although they describe it as a distinct species, place among their synonymes the *Emys reticularia* of Say, which is none other than the *Emys reticulata* of Daudin. Most of all, perhaps, it resembles the *Emys hieroglyphica*, but the head is much larger—the shell is smooth and differently coloured—the posterior extremities are less flattened, &c.



Holbrook, John Edwards. 1842. "Emys concinna – Leconte." *North American herpetology; or, A description of the reptiles inhabiting the United States* 1, 119–121. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.326765>.

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