

part of the teeth) in the Museum resembles the skull of the preceding in most particulars, but is rather larger in size, and the perforation in the side of the nose, at the front edge of the orbit, is smaller and not so oblong, being only a little higher than wide.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS ON *DERMATEMYS*, A GENUS OF
EMYDIDÆ FROM CENTRAL AMERICA. BY DR. J. E. GRAY,
F.R.S., ETC.

In the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1847, p. 53, I described a new genus of *Emydidae*, under the name of *Dermatemys Mawii*; and in the 'Catalogue of Shield Reptiles in the British Museum' I figured the shell of the animal in detail.

This genus was only established on a single shell, without any part of the animal attached to it, which was then in the Museum of this Society, having been presented by Lieut. Mawe, R.N. This specimen has since been transferred to the collection of the British Museum.

Some doubts have been expressed as to the position of the genus in the family *Emydidae*; and one naturalist has even gone so far as to doubt the propriety of establishing a genus from the examination of the single specimen, which he was inclined to believe was only an abnormal form of a typical *Emys*. This I could not admit; for, even if it were an accidental monstrosity, we did not know an *Emys* to which it could be referred.

M. Bibron, when in England, named the specimen, in the MS. Catalogue of the Zoological Society, *Emys Mawii*, a name which I adopted when I originally described it.

More lately the Museum at Paris appears to have received a specimen with the animal, for I find it shortly noticed in M. A. Duméril's 'Catalogue of the Paris Museum' under the name of *Emys Berrardi*, with the following account of the animal:—"Head uniform brown, flat, broad, rather large; jaws toothed; toes broadly webbed; tail strong, rather long." It was sent from M. Berrard from Vera Cruz. *Emys Berrardi* is also described and figured by A. Duméril in the sixth volume of the 'Archives du Muséum,' p. 231, t. 15.

It is to be observed that in the short notice of the species in the 'Catalogue of the Paris Museum' the series of large shields on the external symphysis, which is a peculiarity of *Dermatemys Mawii*, is not mentioned; and they are to be looked for in vain in the longer description in the 'Archives du Muséum,' or in the plate which accompanies that paper. Yet there can be no doubt that both the descriptions and figure are intended for the animal under discussion, as M. Duméril admits that they received one specimen from Lieut. Mawe (or "Maw," as it is printed), which no doubt they obtained from the Zoological Society when M. Bibron was in London. However, the figure is more beautiful as a work of art than accurate as a natural-history drawing; but then herpetologists must by this time

have become accustomed to M. Auguste Duméril's want of attention to such details.

Professor Agassiz, probably deceived by these inaccuracies, observed:—" *E. Berrardi* seems to belong to the genus *Ptychemys*, judging from the description and figure of the jaws." (Contrib. p. 432.)

In Mr. Salvin's collection there is a specimen of this Tortoise, with the animal; but, unfortunately, the specimen is not well preserved: it seems to have been allowed to get dry from evaporation of the spirit, and then to have been placed in spirit again. However, it is in a sufficiently good condition to allow of a description of the more prominent characters of the animal; and it shows that the peculiar disposition of the sternal plate, on which the genus was described (though overlooked by M. Duméril), belongs to the normal characters of the animal. The head is rather large, flat above, and covered with a soft, thin, continuous skin; the nose shelving upward, conical; nostril terminal; mouth inferior, considerably behind the end of the nose; beak horny, rather sinuated at the sides; chin not bearded; the limbs strong, well developed; the legs covered with small scales; the front of the fore legs with numerous, unequal, very slender, band-like cross shields; feet large, broad; the toes very long, rather slender, with a wide web to the base of the claws; the outer edge of the fore leg and foot, and the hinder edge of the hind leg and foot, with a broad thin fringe, covered with large smooth plates; the claws 4—5, elongated, acute; tail short, thick, angular, the upper surface flat, granular, with a ridge on each side of the base converging towards the centre, where the ridges unite and form a single central ridge of granules to the horny tip of the tail.

This genus has all the characters of the more typical aquatic Terrapins. The feet are broad, the toes elongated and well webbed; and the alveolar edges of the jaws, according to the figure of M. A. Duméril (*l. c. t. 15*), have distinct dentated ridges, like the genera *Pseudemys* and *Batagur*. M. Duméril's figure seems to have been taken from a badly preserved stuffed specimen. There is a second specimen of this very interesting Terrapin now alive in the Zoological Gardens.

In my description of the genus I have described the axillary and inguinal plates as absent. In Mr. Salvin's specimen they are very small, but yet distinctly present, but are more developed on one side than on the other, showing that they are variable in this animal.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW LIZARD (*SPATALURA CARTERI*, GRAY), FROM LIFE*. BY HENRY CARTER, ESQ.

"Noticing that, in your specific description of *Spatalura Carteri* (Annals, vol. xiii. p. 249), you have inserted in a parenthesis the words 'dry from spirits,' I am inclined to think that you would be glad of more information on the colour-markings of this Lizard when

* Extracted from a letter to Dr. J. E. Gray.



Gray, John Edward. 1864. "Additional observations on Dermatemyd, a genus of Emydidae from Central America." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 14, 391–392.

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