

Name.	Length of alimentary canal.	
	ft.	in.
Virginian Deer, two days old ( <i>Cervus virginianus</i> ) ..	18	2
Musk Deer, 3 lbs. ( <i>Moschus moschiferus</i> ).....	13	5
Elk ( <i>Cervus alces</i> ) .....	129	0
Alpaca ( <i>Auchenia pacos</i> ).....	70	0
Huanaco ( <i>Auchenia huanaco</i> ).....	95	0
Goat (kid), four months.....	30	0
Brocket ( <i>Coassus rufus</i> ).....	55	9
Mufflon ( <i>Ovis musimon</i> ).....	46	7
Aoudad ( <i>O. tragelaphus</i> ) .....	91	0
Cape Sheep ( <i>O. aries</i> ).....	97	7
Southdown Lamb, six months .....	74	9
Old Southdown Ewe .....	109	8
Leicester Ram .....	117	0
Ox ( <i>Bos taurus</i> ) .....	123	0
Ditto, No. 2 .....	186	0
Bison, old ( <i>B. americanus</i> ).....	157	0

The above are not exactly in generic order. I may remark that the great majority of the animals were in the Society's collection.

As this Society was established partly for the cultivation of physiology, I may be excused, I hope, for saying a word in conclusion in reference to the ruminants in this table. In 1853, when I showed the valves in the splenic veins of the Giraffe to this Society (P. Z. S. 1853, p. 99), Kölliker, Carpenter, and all writers denied the existence of valves in the abdominal veins; but I have found that all the quadrupeds mentioned in this table, as well as many others of a different order, possess them, not only in the intestinal veins, but often in the splenic and renal.

Time will not permit me to enter on the anatomy of the Eland on this occasion; I must therefore defer the paper until a future Meeting.

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February 23, 1864.

John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., in the Chair.

Dr. E. Crisp exhibited some drawings representing the eggs and young of the Anaconda (*Eunectes murinus*).

Mr. F. T. Buckland made some observations on the habits of spawning Trout, and on the results obtained in the course of experiments he had made with eggs taken from dead fishes.









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J Wolf del. et lith.

ZORILLA ALBINUCHA.

M & N Harhart Inc.



The Secretary read the following extract from a letter addressed to Mr. S. P. Woodward, of the British Museum, by S. Archer, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon 98th Foot, dated Rawal Pindee, Dec. 26th, 1862, accompanied by specimens of *Vitrina flemingi*:—

“I send you herewith a few specimens of *Vitrina flemingi*, in spirits, as I thought you might wish to examine the teeth of a large species of the genus. I found them pretty abundantly along the banks of the Jhelum, on the road to Cashmere, and it seems to be not uncommon in the Himalayas between 5000 and 8000 feet elevation.

“With the exception of a large white *Bulimus*, frequently reversed, it was almost the only land-shell I obtained.

“*Lymnæa stagnalis*, and a smaller species, is common in the lake near the city of Cashmere and in other places (about 5000 feet elevation). A small *Cyrena* is also abundant in the Jhelum, within the valley. There are a large number of plants indigenous to the valley, which are also common in England; and I think I met with about half of our diurnal Lepidoptera, some of our rarest species being most abundant. (See paper, by S. P. Woodward, ‘On the Land and Freshwater Shells of Kashmir and Tibet, collected by Dr. T. Thomson,’ Proc. Zool. Soc. 1856, p. 185.)”

The following papers were read:—

1. NOTICE OF A NEW SPECIES OF ZORILLA.

BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

(Plate X.)

The British Museum, rather more than ten years ago, purchased of Mr. Argent the skin of a *Zorilla*, which differs from any others which I have seen. Unfortunately it was without any habitat, and I have been waiting in hopes of a second specimen occurring which would supply this deficiency.

It, however, appears so distinct that I think it now better to give a short account of it, that it may be recorded in the systematic catalogues.

ZORILLA ALBINUCHA. (Pl. X.)

Black; back with four yellowish-white stripes, the two middle streaks short, the outer extending from the occiput to the base of the tail; tail yellowish white; forehead, crown, nape, and upper part of the ears pure white.

*Hab.* —?

The hair soft and short; the white hair of the crown and the yellowish hair of the dorsal stripes one-coloured to the base; the hair of the tail rigid, more or less blackish at the base.

There are two or three small, black, unsymmetrically placed spots on the crown, and the central black streak of the back is extended a short way up the centre of the nape. The front claws are short and acute.



It differs from the *Zorilla vaillantii*, Loche (Rev. et Mag. de Zool. 1856, viii. 497, t. 22), in the crown of the head being entirely white, and the streak on the back narrower and well-defined.

## 2. ON THE OSTEOLOGY OF THE KAGU (*RHINOCETUS JUBATUS*). By W. K. PARKER.

If we take the terrestrial, amphibious, and aquatic birds as a practical half of the whole class, we shall find that the minor groups into which they break up all fuse into each other at their margins.

If it were not for the fact that the Pigeons, Ardeine birds (e. g. Ibises, Storks, and Herons), and the "Pelecaninæ" have tender young, then a straight line might be drawn through the class, leaving on one side the plunderers, songsters, and other families of the "Aves altrices," and on the other the walking, running, wading, swimming, and diving birds. As it is, however, this interdigitation of the two main halves does not take away the great naturalness of such a subdivision; and the land- and water-birds may be considered as together forming a very natural group.

Certainly these birds have very much in common; and inosculant forms so completely connect together the minor subdivisions as to make one seamless web of these apparently incongruous materials.

This slow but sure melting of family into family, and genus into genus, this mixing of single types so as to form double, triple, and multiple types, makes the ancestral hypothesis very hard to digest, whilst yet it seems to be the only one at hand having any scientific value. It may be an *ignis fatuus*, but, to one perplexed with tracing the mazy labyrinth of types, it looks like a light shining in a dark place.

The *Palamedea* and the Kagu have turned up to me very opportunely just now; they have made me rethink my thoughts, and repeat and vary my observations, on the relationships of the land- and water-groups of birds. The former of these birds—the *Palamedea*—by bringing an essentially Anserine bird so near those outlying "Gallinæ" the Curassow and the Brush-Turkey, shows how it is that there exists so much in common in the skull and face of the Fowl and the Goose; whilst the Kagu, by tying closely together the Trumpeter and the *Eurypyga*, in some degree opens the eyes to understand why the relationship of the Cranes to the Herons, and of both to the Rails, should be so close and intimate.

I have also been brought to re-analyze the families so as to eliminate, if possible, the single or pure from the mixed types, whether merely double or multiple.

Tentatively and cautiously let us separate the true Ralline birds, from the *Notornis* to the Coot; this group may stand as one of the simple-type families.

Parallel with these birds—in some respects more intelligent, in others coming nearer to the reptile—we place the Plovers, not having respect to the length of their bills, but to the degree in which



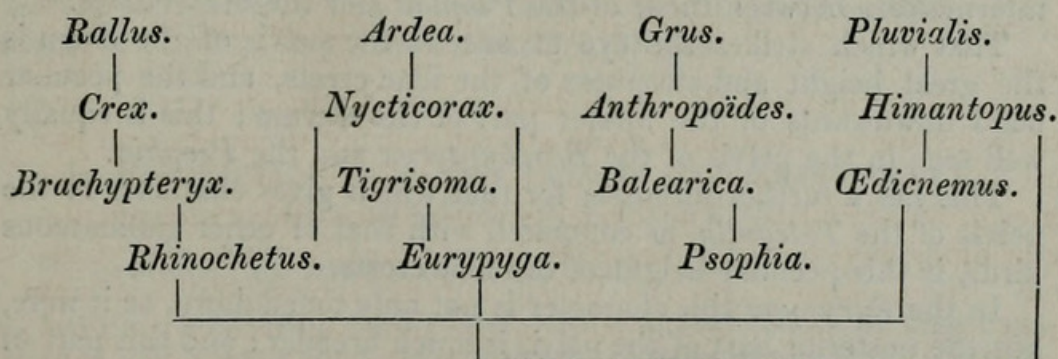
they have retained a certain embryological simplicity of structure, and are thus less typically *ornithic* than their relatives the Gulls, on one hand, and the Ibises, on the other.

The typical Fowls and the typical Geese and Ducks appear to form two more groups of equal value with the Ralline and Pluvialine groups; but as these two simple types do not bear very directly upon the subject of this present paper, they will be considered on some other occasion.

Any one who has mastered the development of a Rail or a Plover will be in a state of fitness to study the meaning of what he will see in the structure of the Heron and of the Crane.

At present my view of the matter is, that, whilst the Heron has risen considerably higher in the bird-scale than the Crane, yet they are intimately related; moreover, that the Heron has full two-thirds of the ralline nature in it to one of the pluvialine, and, on the other hand, that the Crane has in it twice as much of the Plover as of the Rail.

In supposing these birds to be thus double in their nature, I do not forget that they have characters peculiar to themselves alone; *identity-characters* they might be called: we see this everywhere in nature; and those of us who have large families know well that, whilst each child is in one sense a copy of both parents at once, yet he holds his own, and has so much and such well-marked individualism as to make him in a certain sense like the starting-point of divergence towards a distinct species. I here append a sort of scheme, showing some of the more important relationships of the Kagu, one of the best examples of a multiple type:—



The *Rhinochetus*, the *Psophia*, and the *Eurypyga* are on the same level; they are intimately related *inter se*, and very closely also to the Cranes and Herons. I am not aware whether, in placing them on the same line, I have truly indicated the *ornithic* height of each. In the upper line it is certainly not so; yet that is a natural arrangement in one important matter; for the Heron comes near to the Rail, and the Crane to the Plover, and all are intimately related.

The *Psophia* is the truest Crane in the bottom line, yet its skull is principally ralline in character; the *Eurypyga* comes nearest to the Heron: as for the Kagu, whether it be most of a Crane, a Night-Heron, or a Wingless Rail, I will not say; it has a more distant relationship with the Stone-Plover (*Ædicnemus*).



The *Psophia* has a very phasianine expression of face, and the structure of its head answers to that look very considerably; whilst the *Eurypyga* has stretched just as far out for some of its characters, and is unmistakeably related to the Stilt-Plover (*Himantopus*). It would be tedious if the details were given; but I hold myself ready to prove my assertions. Leaving the beautiful and complex skulls of the Kagu, the *Eurypyga*, and the *Psophia* (merely remarking that the first is most like that of a Night-Heron, the second halfway between that of the Kagu and the *Himantopus*, and that the third is, as it were, the skull of a phasianine Rail), let us turn to the sternum in these birds.

In each case this bone answers best to that of a newly hatched Crane (e. g. *Grus montignesia*), whilst it is, as yet, totally unossified. The breast-bone of the Trumpeter comes nearest that of the Crowned Crane (*Balearica*); the Kagu's sternum is truest to the embryo Crane; whilst that of the *Eurypyga* answers in nature both to that of the young Crane and the young Heron. The sternum of the true Crane, in its early condition, is very interesting, as, besides its own proper characters, it shows a dying-out of the *pluvialine* inner hyposternal processes. The dorsal vertebræ are largely anchylosed together in these three mixed types—the Kagu, *Psophia*, and *Eurypyga*; and this occurs in all the Cranes more or less, and also in that strange Crane-Goose the Flamingo.

The furculum of the Kagu is but little stronger, and only a little more U-shaped, than that of the *Brachypteryx*; that of the *Psophia* has its rami more divergent than that of a Crane, and the process at the angle is weaker; and, lastly, the furculum of the *Eurypyga* is intermediate between those of the *Psophia* and the Stilt-Plover.

That which strikes the eye at once in the pelvis of the Kagu is the great height and steepness of the iliac crests, and the peculiar bend downwards of the hinder part of the sacrum; this is equally well seen in the pelvis of the *Brachypteryx* and the *Psophia*.

This has a further interest; for that which gives character to the pelvis of the *Talegalla*, as compared with that of other gallinaceous birds, is this peculiar height of the iliac crests.

In the *Eurypyga* this character is not only toned down, as it were, but the posterior part of the pelvis is much broader: and this part of the bird alone would only indicate a *specific* difference from that peculiar Ibis-like Stork the *Umbretta*; for its pelvis differs but little from that of the *Eurypyga*, save in being stronger, and it answers to that common broad kind so constantly seen in every modification of an essentially *pluvialine* bird.

My last remark is, that all the outliers of the typical "Ardeinæ"—*Balæniceps*, *Scopus*, *Eurypyga*, *Rhinocetus*, and the Storks—take hands round the well-defined central group, viz. the Herons, Bitterns, Egrets, Night-Herons, Tiger-Bitterns, and Boat-bill.



3. ON SOME ADDITIONS TO THE LIST OF THE BIRDS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. BY P. L. SCLATER, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S.

In the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1860, p. 382, I published a list of birds collected by Capt. Packe in the Falkland Islands, in which fifty-seven species were enumerated as occurring in that group of islands. In the following year Capt. Abbott's fine series of specimens from the same locality, concerning which he contributed a valuable paper to the 'Ibis'\*, enabled me to make an addition of ten species to the avifauna of the group†. Mr. Leadbeater has recently sent to me for examination a few additional specimens lately obtained by Capt. Packe, among which are two species not included in either of my former lists. These are—

1. EGRETTA LEUCE (Licht.): *Ardea leuce*, Licht. Doubl. p. 77; Burmeister, Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 416.

This is a widely distributed American species.

2. PRION TURTUR, Gould, B. Austr. vii. pl. 54.

A species found throughout the Southern Pacific and Atlantic, according to Mr. Gould.

I have thought it desirable to record the occurrence of these two species in the Falklands, in order to make the list as complete as possible. At the same time I may call attention to the rectifications made in the 'Ibis,' 1861, p. 312, concerning the names of two of the species contained in my first list, sc. *Nycticorax gardeni* and *Larus roseiventris*, which I now believe ought to stand as *Nycticorax obscurus* (Licht.) and *Larus glaucotis*, Meyen.

4. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CHRYSOCOCCYX.  
BY JOHN GOULD, F.R.S., ETC.

CHRYSOCOCCYX SCHOMBURGKI, Gould.

Crown of the head, neck, back, and scapularies rich shining coppery bluish green; wing-coverts bright shining green, margined with a coppery hue; first three primaries dark bluish black, with a stripe of white down the central part of their inner webs; the remainder of the primaries bluish green on their outer webs, with a tinge of copper on their margins, the inner webs bluish black with a broad stripe of white along their basal margin; tail-feathers deep bluish green, with a tinge of copper on their margins, and the outer feathers on each side crossed by three irregular bands of white, and with an oval spot of white at the tip; throat, under surface of the body, and under wing-coverts alternately banded with pure white

\* See Ibis, 1861, p. 149, "Notes on the Birds of the Falkland Islands," by Capt. C. C. Abbott.

† See P. Z. S. 1861, p. 45.



and bronzy green; under tail-coverts beautiful grass-green, those nearest the body largely tipped with white; bill orange, tipped with black; tarsi and feet olive.

Total length  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, bill  $\frac{7}{8}$ , wing  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , tail  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , tarsi  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

*Hab.* Siam.

*Remark.* This very beautiful species is nearly allied to the *Chrysococcyx hodgsoni* of Moore (*C. smaragdineus*, Blyth) and *C. xanthorhynchus* of Horsfield. It was sent to me from Siam by Sir Robert Schomburgk, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for that country; and I have named it in honour of one whose devotion to natural science is well known, and to whose merits in this respect I have had the pleasure of bearing testimony upon several previous occasions.

5. ON THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS CHAUNA. BY P. L. SCLATER, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S., SECRETARY TO THE SOCIETY.

(Plate XI.)

In my paper on some new and interesting additions to the Menagerie, read before this Society last November\*, I mentioned the acquisition of several specimens of a Crested Screamer (*Chauna*) from the neighbourhood of Cartagena, New Granada, which had been obtained for us through the exertions of our Corresponding Member Mr. Greey. Struck with the difference exhibited by these New Granadian birds from the ordinary Brazilian *Chauna chavaria*, I had at first considered them to belong to the scarce and little-known Central-American species *Chauna derbiana*, and under this name the fine living specimen received in July 1863, which still ornaments our aviary, was figured in the 'Illustrated London News' for October 3rd, 1863. I became, however, afterwards persuaded, by reference to former authorities, that I had erred in my identification, and that the New Granadian bird was more nearly allied to the Brazilian *Chauna chavaria*, and under this name I spoke of it in my communication referred to above. But within these last few weeks one of the dead specimens of this bird received from Mr. Greey having been mounted and placed in the British Museum, in close proximity to Brazilian examples of the true *Chauna chavaria*, I have had the opportunity of comparing them together, and have again somewhat modified my opinions as regards the New Granadian bird. It is, in fact, evidently intermediate in characters, as in geographical position, between the two former known species; and, as four specimens received from the same locality present similar appearances, I do not hesitate to characterize it as a third species of the genus, under the name of *Chauna nigricollis*, its most obvious distinguishing character from *Chauna chavaria* being the distinct black neck. This is continued upwards to the white throat and cheeks, from which it is separated by a well-marked boundary.

\* See P. Z. S. 1863, p. 377.





J. Wolf del, et lith.

M & N Hanhart imp

CHAUNA NIGRICOLLIS.







The following diagnoses will, I think, serve to distinguish the three species of *Chauna* :—

1. CHAUNA CHAVARIA.

*Parra chavaria*, Linn. S. N. i. p. 260.

*Palamedea chavaria*, Temm. Pl. Col. 219; Burm. Syst. Ueb. iii. p. 397.

*Cinerea*: collo undique obscuriore: ventre albo, cinereo flammulato.

*Hab.* In Brasil. merid. et Paraguay.

This appears to be the largest and most lightly coloured of the three forms of *Chauna*. The black ring is ill-defined, and placed much lower down the neck. In the two succeeding species the neck is wholly black up to the white throat and cheeks. The belly of this species is whitish, with indistinct flammulations of cinereous.

2. CHAUNA NIGRICOLLIS, sp. nov. (Pl. XI.)

*Chauna chavaria*, Sclater, P. Z. S. 1863, p. 377.

*Saturate nigricanti-cinerea*: gula et genis circumscripte et distincte albis: collo undique et late nigro: ventre cinereo, crisso albo.

*Hab.* In Noy. Granada, ad ripas fl. Dekke.

In its distinct white throat and black neck, this form agrees more nearly with *Chauna derbiana*, but in general coloration rather approaches the Brazilian *C. chavaria*. It appears to be decidedly smaller in dimensions than the latter species, and I see no traces of the partial denudation of the throat which appears to obtain in adult examples of *Chauna chavaria*.

As no *Chauna*, as far as I am aware, occurs in Guiana or in any part of the Amazon valley, it would seem that the areas of these two species are separated by a considerable interval.

3. CHAUNA DERBIANA, G. R. Gray.

*Chauna derbiana*, Gray & Mitch., Gen. Birds, pl. 161.

*Nigra*: gula genisque circumscripte albis: rostro et pedibus rubris.

*Hab.* In Guatemala, prov. Peten.

The only two specimens of this scarce bird in England are, I believe, those in the Derby Museum at Liverpool, from one of which the figure was taken. Mr. T. Moore, the Curator, has kindly furnished me with the following note respecting the precise locality of this species, which is of interest, as no details whatever have yet been published on the subject:—

“The original specimen of *Chauna derbiana*, that from which the figure in Gray’s ‘Genera’ was taken, was obtained by Mr. J. Bates, who was sent out by the late Lord Derby with the primary object of procuring and importing alive the *Meleagris ocellata*.

“The specimen is labelled ‘J. Bates, Sept. 1843, Peten,’ by his



Lordship's stuffer; and has also attached to it the following label in Bates's handwriting:—'Kept this bird alive by cramming it with food upwards of four months. Died while I was at Peten.'

"We have another and better specimen in skin, labelled as follows:—'Purchased of J. Leadbeater, Sept. 3, 1843, from Bogota.'

"I do not know on what grounds Leadbeater gives Bogota for the locality of his specimen, and should much doubt its correctness."

6. REVISION OF THE SPECIES OF TRIONYCHIDÆ FOUND IN ASIA AND AFRICA, WITH THE DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW SPECIES. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

In the quarto 'Catalogue of Shield Reptiles in the British Museum' I carefully revised the species of this family, and figured the skulls of the genera as far as they were then contained in the Museum Collection. Since that period I have described, in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' several other Asiatic and African species.

Very shortly after the appearance of this catalogue, Professor Agassiz, in the 'Contributions to the Natural History of the United States' (2 vols. 4to, 1857), published his observations on this group. He remarks that "a critical revision of the genera of *Trionychidæ* appears a great desideratum in herpetology;" and goes on to say, "I have already satisfied myself that the number of species is much greater than is generally supposed;" and further, "in this connexion I would remark that it is hardly possible to distinguish the *Trionychidæ* by their external characters, and that nothing short of a careful examination of their jaws, and especially of the skull, will reveal their generic characters." (*Contrib.* p. 396.)

These observations are fully justified by the study of the Asiatic and African species contained in the Museum collection.

I have therefore re-examined the materials at my command, and send the result to the Society, referring to the 'Catalogue of Shield Reptiles' and my previous papers in the 'Proceedings' of the Society for the descriptions and the figures of the species before described.

As the American museums appear to have a very small collection of specimens of these animals from Africa and Asia, so the British Museum collection has scarcely any specimens from North America, and unfortunately I have no means of comparing the skulls of any of the American species with those from the Old World.

Professor Agassiz, in the 'Contributions,' shows that they belong to three genera, which he calls *Amyda*, *Platypeltis*, and *Aspidonectes*, containing six species; and I must refer naturalists to his work for the particulars, regretting that he has not given us a figure of the skulls of these and other genera of Tortoises mentioned in his work for comparison.

Referring to the American species, Professor Agassiz justly and philosophically observes, "The external resemblance between *Platy-*



*peltis ferox*, *Aspidonectes spinifer*, and *A. asper* is so great that I am not surprised that they have been confused or even deliberately considered as identical. We have, in fact, a case here, of which a few other examples only are thus far known, in which, under the most surprising similarity of external appearance, marked structural peculiarities amounting to generic differences are hidden. I have already pointed out such cases in the genera *Phoxinus* and *Chrosomus*, and in the genera *Carpiodes*, *Bubalichthys*, and *Ichthyobus* among Cyprinoids." (*Amer. Journ. of Science*, 2nd ser. xix. p. 71.) "Many similar examples might be quoted among the Rodentia." (*Contrib.* p. 410, note.)

I believe that such cases are much more common than has hitherto been suspected; and it is on such superficial resemblances that Mr. Bates's observations and theories respecting the Brazilian Butterflies are founded—notions which will vanish into the air when the insects are more carefully examined by a systematic entomologist.

Professor Agassiz, in the American species, points out a difference in the form and structure of the nostrils:—

Thus, in *Amyda mutica* the nostrils are small, simple, circular, and far apart, rather on the underside of the snout.

In *Platypeltis ferox* and *Aspidonectes spinifer* these are larger, close together, and with a process on the middle inner side of each.

Unfortunately it is not possible to make similar observations on the African or Asiatic species, as one has not the power of observing them alive. Indeed they rarely arrive in a sufficiently good state to make the comparison with certainty in the specimens preserved in spirits. All the African and Asiatic species that I have been able to examine seem to have nostrils as in *Platypeltis* and *Aspidonectes* of Agassiz.

As we have only two adult stuffed and four or five young specimens and no osteological preparations of the American species in the British Museum, I shall not attempt to make any observations of them, but refer the reader to the work of Professor Agassiz before referred to, and proceed to examine with care the specimens of the Asiatic and African species in the Museum collection.

In the Museum Catalogue I showed that the coloration of the young specimens, especially the disposition of the colour on the head, afforded very good specific character for a certain number of Asiatic and African species. But Professor Agassiz, in his account of the North American species, shows most distinctly that, though all the species of *Trionyches*, or Mud-Tortoises, found in that country have a very similar distribution of colour on the head and shield, yet, when the skulls of these animals from different localities are examined, they prove to be very distinct—so distinct that he divides them into three genera.

These observations will furnish an example showing how every zoologist must be hampered at every step in his progress by the limited quantity of the materials at his disposal. I have now, and had when I printed my 'Catalogue of Shield Reptiles,' every wish to examine and arrange the species of this family according to their



organization, both external and internal; but when I printed the former catalogue I had only the skulls of three species. I have been able to add considerably to the collection of skulls; but the number of known species has also extended, and now the skulls of only about half of the species determined on their external form and coloration are known, so that I am not able to make the rigorous examination and comparison between the skulls that I could wish; and I am by no means sure, after what I have seen, and especially after the facts stated by Professor Agassiz, that more than one species may not be confused under one name, from the species having been simply determined by their external form and coloration.

Wagner, in his system, separated the species that had their hind legs covered with moveable valves and the margin of the shield bony, from those which have the hind legs free and the margin of the disk flexible, calling the former *Trionyx*, and the latter *Aspidonectes*. In my Synopsis of Reptiles in the translation of Cuvier's 'Animal Kingdom,' I retained the name of *Trionyx* for the latter group (as it contained the typical species of the genus), and called the former one *Emyda*. Duméril and Bibron, with the usual habit of the French naturalists, gave new names to all the groups, calling the first group *Cryptopus*, and the latter *Gymnopus*.

Dr. Peters, when in Mozambique, discovered a Tortoise (which he at first called *Cyclanosteus*, but afterwards *Cycloderma*) intermediate between these two groups, having the hind leg covered with sternal valves, and the margins of the shields boneless and flexible.

I may here observe that I cannot agree to the changes in the nomenclature proposed by Professor Agassiz in the 'Contributions,' at pp. 396 and 397; indeed I am convinced that, if he had studied the Indian and Asiatic species as he has the American, he would modify his suggestions.

Fitzinger, in his "Systematic Catalogue of Tortoises" in the 'Annals of the Vienna Museum,' published in 1836, divided the *Trionyches* with free feet and a flexible margin into four genera, containing most incongruous species associated together (for example, *Trionyx javanicus* and *T. ægyptiacus* of Geoffroy and *T. indicus* of Gray, *Trionyx muticus*, Lesueur, and *T. subplanus*, Geoffroy) in the same genus. Sometimes he refers the same species (as, for example, *T. ægyptiacus*, Geoffroy, and *T. labiatus* of Bell, which are only states of the same species) to two genera, as the first to *Aspidonectes*, and the latter to *Pelodiscus*.

Professor Agassiz truly remarks, "All these new genera are founded upon delusive characters, as Gray has already stated, which depend only upon the progress of the ossification of the shield, and may be observed in specimens of different ages of one and the same species, as my numerous skeletons of these Turtles clearly show; moreover the difference in the length of the tail is only sexual, the tail being very short in the female, and extending beyond the rim of the shield in the males of all the species that I know."—*Contrib.* 395, 396.

If the generic names which Fitzinger has given are used, it must be with quite a different significance than that attributed to them



by him. They may be retained for some of the species which he referred to his badly characterized groups.

Professor Agassiz, in describing the genera of the North American Terrapins, places great confidence in the form of the alveolar surface of the jaws, and probably correctly, as he seems to have studied this part in a series of specimens of different ages. My observations would lead me to believe that it is of considerable importance in the distinction of the *Trionychidæ*; but there are two specimens which I have received from the same locality (which are in other respects so much alike that I am inclined to believe that they are skulls of the half-grown and adult animals of the same species) that are so different in the form of the alveolar surface as to induce me to believe that this part alters considerably during the growth of the animal, at least in some species of the family; nevertheless additional specimens may show that what I have taken for alterations in growth are, in fact, specific distinctions. The examination of the skulls of the half-grown and the adult *Tyrse nilotica* and *Trionyx gangeticus*, the only species that I have at present the power of examining in more than one state of growth, does not reveal any great change in the form of the alveolar surface as the animal increases in age. But there is no reason why a change of this kind may not take place in one species or genus, and not occur in others or in the generality of the species. I have therefore for the present adopted Professor Agassiz's views.

He seems to use the form of the alveolar edge as of generic importance, and this when he says he has a series of skeletons from animals of different ages. He describes as follows:—

“Thus, the alveolar edges of the lower jaw of *Amyda* and *Aspidolectes* are sharp all round.”—*Contrib.* pp. 398 & 403.

In *Platypeltis* “the lower jaw, like the upper, has a very broad alveolar surface; this surface is nearly flat at the symphysis, but has a deep depression near the hinder end.”—*Contrib.* p. 400.

Yet these are just the characters that one might expect to occur after examining the skull of *Cyclanosteus senegalensis*, between the young and adult specimens of the same species.

The examination of the series of specimens at my command induces me to place considerable confidence in the characters furnished by the general form of the skull—in the position of the internal nostrils, whether they are placed in a deep or a shallow groove in the palate, and if that groove is situated only behind the internal nostrils, or is continued in front to the edge of the jaws, and, if so continued, whether it is nearly of the same width throughout its length, or more or less contracted in front of the interior nostrils—and also in regard to the position of the internal nostrils themselves, whether they are in the front of the palate or some distance from the front edge, so as to be nearly on a level with the front edge of the zygomatic arches.

The genera, for example, may be divided into two groups by the forms of the skulls, which probably indicate some peculiarity in their



habits, quite as important as the form of the sternum and the flexibility or inflexibility of the edge of the dorsal disks; but so little is known of the habits and manners of these animals, that we have no materials to work from.

A. The skull solid, convex, subtrigonal; nose moderate; eyes lateral; the palate concave, with raised alveolar edges, and a deep oblong concavity enclosing and extending behind the internal nostrils.

*Emyda. Cyclanosteus. Trionyx. Tyrse. Dogania. Rafetus.*

B. Skull oblong, thin, and light; nose very short; eyes anterior; forehead flat, often elongate; palate flat, with scarcely raised alveolar edges, and only a very slight depression before and behind the internal nostrils.

*Chitra. Heptathyra. Pelochelys.*

There is a very considerable difference in the form of the grooves in the palate, and in the position of the internal nostrils.

In *Trionyx gangeticus* the groove is very broad, equally open, and of an equal width, with the circular internal nostril behind on a level with the front of the zygomatic arch.

In *Potamochelys stellatus* the groove is very narrow in front, partly arched over on the sides by the inner edge of the large alveolar margin, with the oblong internal nostrils very close together, in a line with the middle of the upper lip.

In *Rafetus euphraticus* the palate-groove is intermediate in form between that of *Trionyx* and *Potamochelys*, being broad, deep, entirely open, but rather narrower in front, with the large circular internal nostrils rather in front of the zygomatic arches.

In *Cyclanosteus senegalensis* the palate is somewhat like that of *Potamochelys*; but it is not so much contracted in front, and the oblong internal nostrils are larger, broader, and nearly in the same situation.

In *Tyrse nilotica* the palate is regularly concave in front of the internal nostrils, which are in a deep pit, just before the front of the zygomatic arch, and this concavity is separated by a longitudinal ridge between the nostrils.

There is an apparent anomaly in the development of the sternal callosities, which can only be solved by the conjecture that (as Professor Agassiz declares to be the case) there are several species which have very much the same external appearance. In more than one of the species under examination, the sternal callosities are well developed in some specimens, and scarcely visible in others of the same species and, sometimes, even of a larger size.

I. *The typical or naked-legged Mud-Tortoises have the sternum narrow behind, without any valves over the hind legs; only two or four sternal callosities, and margin of the disk flexible, without any internal bones. GYMNOPUS.*

*Aspidonectes*, Wagler, Syst. 1830.

*Trionyx*, Gray, Syn.; Griffith; Cuvier, 1831.

*Amyda*, Bonap. Tab. Anat. 19, 1836.

*Gymnopus*, Dum. et Bib. Erp. Gén. ii. 479, 1835.



A. *Skull solid, subtrigonal; nose moderate; eyes lateral; forehead short, not longer than the face; palate concave, with a well-raised alveolar ridge, and a deep pit before and behind the internal nostrils.* Trionychina.

a. *Lower jaw (of adult) with a broad, flat alveolar disk; palate with a deep, wide concavity in front of the inner nostrils.*

#### TRIONYX.

Skull oblong, swollen. Nose convex, arched. Forehead convex. Upper jaw with a broad, flat, rugose alveolar plate, which is narrow in front and wide behind. Lower jaw with a broad, deeply concave alveolar edge, which is of nearly equal width in all parts, and with a slight prominence in the middle of the hinder edge. Palate with a broad, deep concavity, which is nearly as wide before as behind, and with the large oblong internal nostrils in the hinder part of the palate, and a deep groove, separated by a longitudinal ridge, behind each of them. Sternal callosities four, well developed.

"The nostrils rather small, far apart, with a lobe on the inner side. Pupil circular."—Wagler.

TRIONYX GANGETICUS, Cuvier, R. A. ii. 16; Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. in B.M. 66.

*Aspidonectes indicus*, Fitz.

*Aspidonectes gangeticus*, Wagler, N. Syst. Amph. t. 2. f. 13-18 & f. 20.

*Hab.* India: Ganges.

Cuvier figured the skull (Oss. Fos. v. 187, t. 11. f. 5-8); and it is also figured in the 'Cat. of Shield Rept. in B.M.' (t. 42. f. 1). Wagler figured some part of the skeleton (N. Syst. Amph. t. 2. f. 13-18 & f. 20).

#### RAFETUS.

Skull oblong, swollen. Nose convex, arched. Forehead flat. Upper jaw with rather broad rugose alveolar plates, rather wider behind than in front. Lower jaw with a broad, slightly concave alveolar edge, which is rather wider in front. Palate concave, with a broad, deep concavity, which is rather narrower in front than behind, and with the large oblong internal nostrils in the hinder part of the palate, and a deep groove, separated by a central longitudinal ridge, behind each of them. Sternal callosities two, lateral, small.

The skull of this genus is very similar to that of the genus *Trionyx*, as restricted in this paper; but it is at once known from that genus by the absence of the hinder sternal callosities and the small size of the lateral ones.

#### RAFETUS EUPHRATICUS.

*Trionyx rafeht*, Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. B.M. 65. t. 30.

*Tyrse rafeht*, Gray, Cat. Tort. B.M. 49.

PROC. ZOOL. SOC.—1864, No. VI.



*Testudo rafeht*, Olivier, Voy. Pers. ii. 452, t. 11.

*Testudo euphraticus*, Daud.

*Trionyx euphraticus*, Geoff.

*Hab.* Tigris and Euphrates.

In the 'Catalogue of Shield Reptiles,' p. 65, I noted that the skull is much shorter and broader than that of *T. niloticus*.

#### DOGANIA.

*Dogania*, Gray, Cat. Tort. B.M. 49, 1844; Cat. Shield Rept. 69.

Head depressed; skull depressed, wide behind. The nose of the skull shelving; the orbit large, subcentral. Forehead small, rhombic, not reaching to over the ear; occipital ridge very much produced, elongate. Palate concave, with a raised margin on each side behind,

Fig. 1.

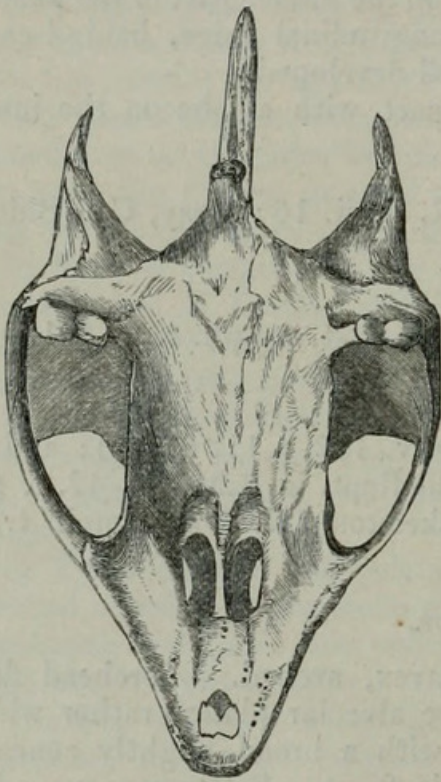


Fig. 2.

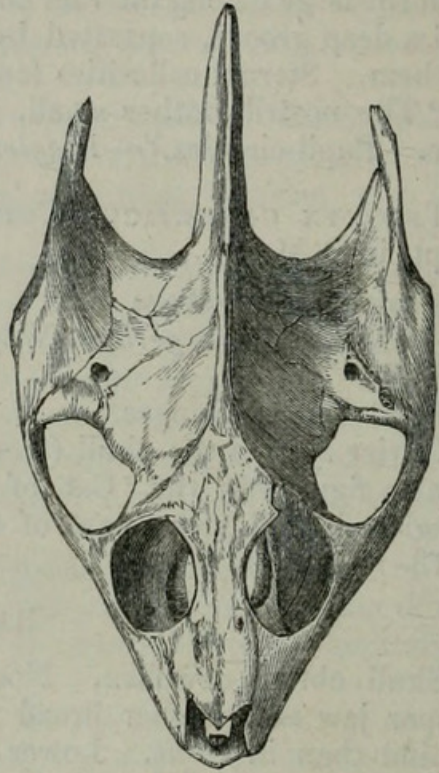
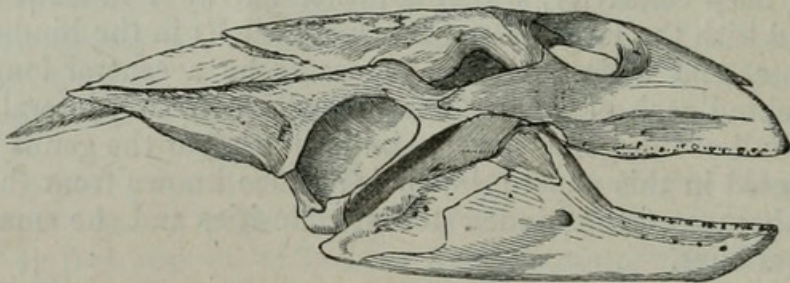


Fig. 3.



*Dogania subplana*.

under the orbits, and with a deep concavity in front of the internal nostrils, which is dilated in front. The internal nostrils very large,



oblong, with a short deep concavity at the hinder edge of each, separated by a central longitudinal ridge. The upper jaw with a broad oblong alveolar plate on each side behind, edging the side of the inner nostrils. The lower jaw rather produced in front; the front alveolar edge simple, sharp-edged, the hinder half rather flattened, broad, but shelving inwards. Sternal callosities two, lateral, linear.

1. *DOGANIA SUBPLANA*, Gray, Cat. Tort. B.M. 49; Shield Rept. 69, t. 33; Proc. Zool. Soc. 1862, p. 265; Cuvier, Oss. Foss. ii. t. 13. f. 5 (dorsal disk). (Skull, figs. 1, 2, 3.)

*Hab.* China and Formosa. *Terrapin* of the Europeans in China. Sold to make soup.

2. *DOGANIA GUENTHERI*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1862, 265.

*Hab.* India.

Face of skull flat, shelving downwards; eyes close together; forehead flat.

#### ASPILUS.

Head elongate, rather depressed. Skull elongate; forehead convex, short; orbits submedial. Nose shelving, rather convex. The palate slightly concave, with the hinder sides under the orbits rather expanded; narrowed in front, with a narrow deep concavity; grooves of equal width in front of the internal nostrils. The internal nostrils oblong, subposterior, on a level with the front edge of the zygomatic arches, with a deep elongate groove behind each of them, separated by a central longitudinal ridge. The alveolar surface of the upper jaw broad, shelving outwards; the inner edge forming a ridge on the side of the inner nostrils. The lower jaw shallow in front, with a broad flat alveolar surface, with a sharp simple outer edge, and shelving internally. Sternal callosities two, lateral.

The skull of this genus is figured by Wagler (N. Syst. Amph. t. 2. f. 4-9) as *Aspidonectes javanicus*.

1. *ASPILUS CARINIFERUS*. (Skull, figs. 4, 5, 6.)

*Trionyx cariniferus*, Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. B.M. 67, t. 32.

*T. stellatus*, var. *javanicus*, Schleg. Faun. Japon. Chelonia, t. 5. f. 6 (head?).

? *Aspidonectes javanicus*, Wagler, N. S. Amph. t. 2. f. 1, 12 (skeleton and skull).

*Hab.* Java.

Wagler, in his 'N. Syst. Amphib.' t. 2. f. 1, 11, figures a very young *Trionyx* under the name of *Aspidonectes javanicus*. It is not the *Trionyx javanicus* of Cuvier nor of my catalogue. The head, neck, and body are minutely white-speckled; the chin and throat are varied with rather larger white spots, and the dorsal disk is speckled with white, as in *Potamochelys stellatus*; but he represents the dorsal disk as having six rings of white spots on the hinder part near the margin, which I have never seen in this species. Hence



it is probably the young of a species that has not come under my observation.

Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

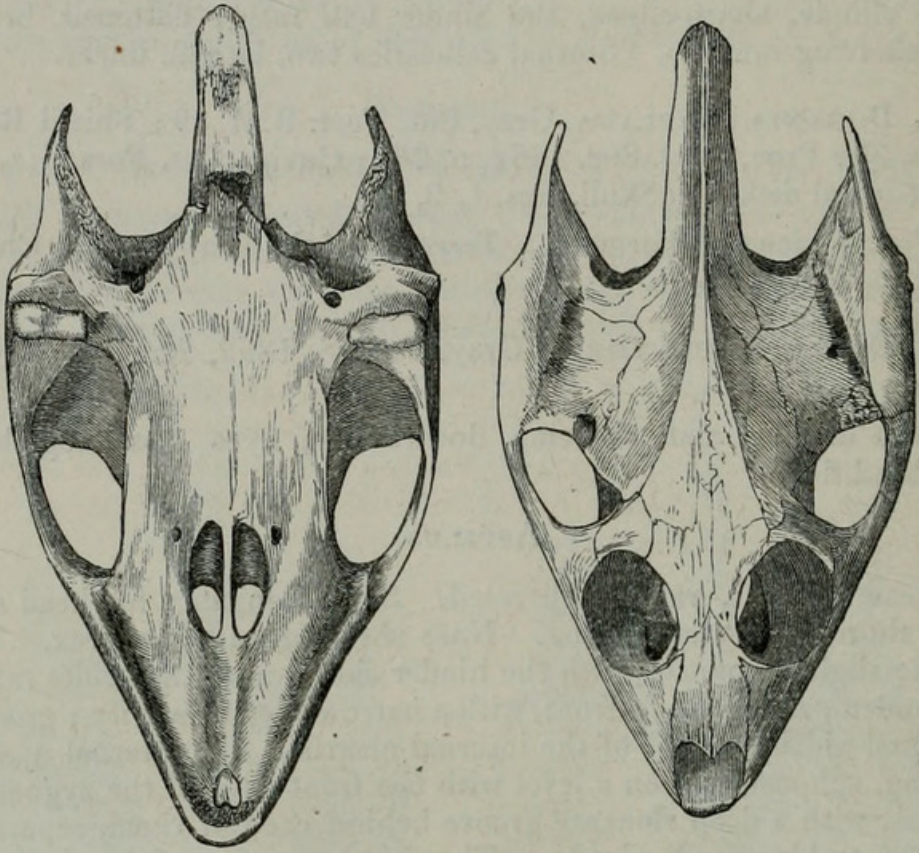
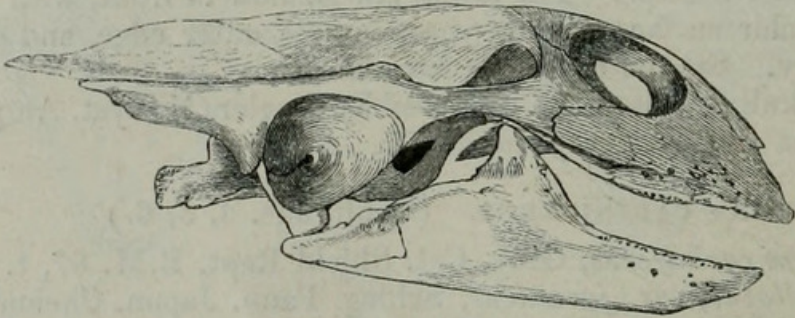


Fig. 6.

*Aspilus cariniferus.*

The following species probably belong to this genus, but I have not been able to examine the skulls of them :—

## 2. ASPILUS ? PUNCTULATUS.

Dark grey brown ; back of the shield with numerous minute white specks, and a narrow thin white margin ; beneath white. Head dark, with minute white specks above, and larger white spots on the chin and throat, with a large irregular-shaped spot on the side of the neck behind the angle of the gape ; the specks and spots on the head regularly dispersed ; sternal callosities not developed.



*Trionyx cariniferus*, spec. *d* & *e*, Cat. Shield Rept. B.M. 67.

*Hab.* Amboina or Ceram (*Madame Ida Pfeiffer*).

### 3. ASPILUS? ORNATUS.

*Trionyx ornatus*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 41, t. 5; Ann. & Mag. N. Hist. 1860, vi. p. 218.

"*Trionyx javanicus*, juv., Dum. & Bib." Mus. Paris.

*Hab.* Camboja.

Young specimens from Siam have rudimentary, narrow, linear, band-like callosities on the lateral sutures. Head minutely white-speckled (no large spot at angle); the first vertebral bone transverse, broad, with a prominence on the middle of hinder edge. The hinder part of the disk with close large tubercles.

A stuffed young specimen from Sarawak, which appears to belong to the same species, has no indication of callosities. Head white-spotted, like young from Siam. The first vertebral bone separate, transverse, smooth, not rugose. The hinder part of the disk smooth, with a central elongated streak, and two oblique converging short lines of small tubercles.

*b. Lower jaw with a simple sharp shelving edge in front, and a flat shelving alveolar disk on the hinder half.*

\* *Palate concave, with a narrow deep groove of equal width in front of the large internal nostrils, which have two very large grooves behind them, and which are contracted, and overlapped on the sides by the alveolar plates.*

### POTAMOCHELYS.

Head elongate, rather depressed; nose rounded; forehead flat; orbits submedial. Sternal callosities four. The palate of the skull rather convex behind, with a slight expansion on each side under the orbits, concave, contracted and bent down in front, with a short, very narrow, deep groove of equal width in front of the internal nostrils. The internal nostrils medial, large, oblong, hooded over by the dilated side of the alveolar plates, and with a very long deep groove behind each of them. The alveolar surface of the upper jaw rather convex in front, shelving outwards behind, and with a raised inner edge, which hoods over the cavity of the internal nostrils. The lower jaw low and produced in front, with a simple sharp edge in front, and a subtrigonal, elongate, flattened, rather concave alveolar disk occupying the hinder half of the inner side.

#### 1. POTAMOCHELYS STELLATUS. (Skull, figs. 7, 8.)

*Trionyx javanicus*, Geoff. Ann. Mus. xiv. 15, t. 3; Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. B. M. 67.

*Potamochelys javanicus*, Fitz.

*T. stellatus*, Geoff. Ann. Mus. xiv. 13 (junior).

*Hab.* India: Deccan (*Sykes*).



I have changed the name of this species because it has been applied to a number of species on the Continent, and I have never seen a specimen from Java. It is known in the young state from all the other species by the broad black streaks radiating on the crown of the head; and they are to be seen in the half-grown specimens.

Fig. 7.

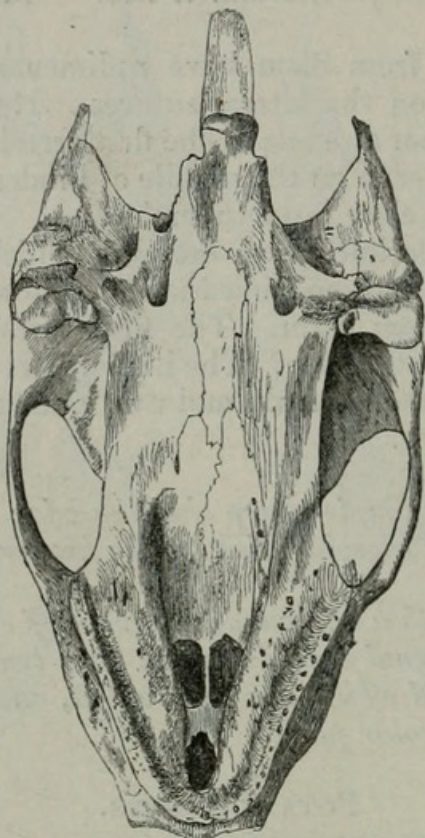
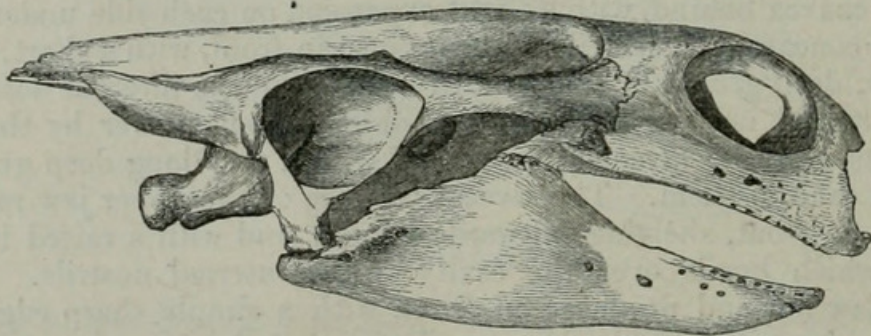


Fig. 8.

*Potamochelys stellatus.*

The following species, which have four sternal callosities, appear to belong to this genus, but I have not been able to examine the skulls of them :—

2. *POTAMOCHELYS*? *PEROCELLATUS*.

*Trionyx perocellatus*, Gray, Cat. Tort. B. M. 48; Cat. Shield Rept. 65, t. 31.

*Hab.* China and Chusan.



Face moderately long, subconical, rather convex; forehead and crown flat (length from back of orbit to nose and to occiput the same), longer than in *P. stellatus*; nostrils large, rather close, with a very small lobe on the inner side of each.

The neck of the young specimens with a dark-edged pale streak on each side, which is bent down towards the throat behind; head brown, black-speckled, with a narrow line across the forehead on the front edge of the eye.

### 3. POTAMOCHELYS? FRENATUS.

*Trionyx frenatus*, Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. 67.

*Hab.* Singapore (*Wallace*).

### 4. POTAMOCHELYS? TUBERCULATUS.

*Trionyx tuberculatus*, Cantor; Gray, P. Z. S. 1861, p. 42.

*Hab.* Chusan.

### 5. POTAMOCHELYS? MICROCEPHALUS, n. s.

Olive-brown. The hinder part of the disk nearly smooth, without any rows of tubercles. The first vertebral bones transverse, short, rugose, with two circular pits behind, between it and the second vertebral plate (probably disappearing in the adult); sternal callosities four, evenly rugose; head small, slender, rather elongate; nose slender, conical, tapering.

*Hab.* Sarawak (*Wallace*).

This species differs from all the other Mud-Tortoises from Asia in the small size, slender and tapering form of the head. It is evidently a young specimen, from the extent of the ribs, which are still free, and the separate state of the bones of the head; but the dorsal bony disk and the sternal callosities are well developed.

This Tortoise will probably be found to form a genus by itself, when the adult animal has been examined.

See also—

1. *Trionyx maackii*, Brandt, Bull. Acad. St. Petersburg. xvi. 110, 1857; Institute, xxvi. no. 1288, p. 298; Arch. f. Nat. 1858, p. 63.

*Hab.* N. China: Amoor River.

2. *Trionyx schlegelii*, Brandt, *l. c.* 1857.

*T. stellata*, sive *javanica*, var. *japonica*, Schlegel, Fauna Japon. t. 8 (animal), t. 5. f. 7 (head).

*Hab.* Japan.

\*\* *Palate flat, with a broad shallow groove of equal width in front of the large posterior internal nostrils, which have two short deep grooves behind them.*

### TYRSE.

Sternal callosities four. Nose elongate, conical, shelving. Fore-



head flat. Eyes submedial. Upper jaw with a broad concave alveolar plate of nearly equal width in all parts. The lower jaw with a sharp edge, with only very slight indications of a flattened alveolar edge on the hinder part of the inner side; the front of the jaw shelving forwards, and with a large concavity on the upper surface behind the edges. The palate flat behind, with a broad concavity in front of the internal nostrils, which is continued behind on both sides of them. The internal nostrils large, oblong, far back, nearly in a line with the front of the zygomatic arches, and with a large deep concavity, separated by a central longitudinal ridge, behind each of them. The nostrils large, rounded, with an internal lobe on the inner edge (see Wagler, N. Syst. Amph. t. 2. f. 19).

The skull of this genus is at once known from those of the genus *Trionyx*, by the nose being elongated, shelving, and not rounded, and by the form of the palate. The skull of a young specimen from the Nile is figured in the 'Cat. of Shield Reptiles,' t. 42. f. 2.

TYRSE NILOTICA, Gray, Cat. Tort. B. M. 48.

*Trionyx niloticus*, Gray, Syn. Rept. 48; Cat. Shield Rept. 68.

*Testudo triunguis*, Forsk.

*Trionyx ægyptiacus*, Geoff. Egyp.

*Gymnopus ægyptiacus*, Dum. & Bibr.

*Trionyx labrosus*, Bell, Test.

*Aspidonectes ægyptiacus*, Fitz.

*Aspidonectes aspilus*, Cope, Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1859, p. 295 (adult).

Hab. Africa, North and West: Fernando Vas River (Cope); Sierra Leone (Bell).

The young specimens have the head, limbs, and edge of the shield dusky, with round white spots.

The very large specimen of *Trionyx* from Western Africa, obtained from M. Du Chaillu, agrees with Mr. Cope's description of *Aspidonectes aspilus*; I can see no difference between it and the half-grown specimens of *Trionyx niloticus* from Egypt in the British Museum. In the two Egyptian specimens the hinder callosities are separated from the lateral ones, and the hinder part of the inner edge of the lateral callosities is regularly rounded. In the very large adult West African specimen the front edge of the hinder callosities is furnished with a process that fits into a notch in the hinder edge of the lateral callosities; and the inner edge of the lateral callosities is straight, and then bent off at an acute angle at the hinder part.

But this is only a difference depending on age; for a more adult specimen collected at Chartoum by Mr. Petherick, in the British Museum, has the lobe and notch in the hinder edge of the lateral callosity well marked, and the hinder part of the inner edge of the lateral callosities approaches more nearly the form of the callosity in the larger and more adult West-African specimen.

There is a large skull and other bones of a species of the genus in the Museum of the College of Surgeons, which was presented by Captain Sir Everard Home. The locality of the species is not



stated, but it is probably from the Indian or Australian Seas. It is very like the skull of *Tyrse nilotica*; and if it came from Africa, it may probably belong to that species. It is described in detail by Professor Owen in the Catalogue of the Osteological Specimens in that Museum (see p. 181, nos. 922, 923).

In the 'Knowsley Menagerie' I described a species of *Trionyx* living in Knowsley Park, which was said to have been sent from Sierra Leone, under the name of *Tyrse argus*, Gray, Cat. Tort. B.M. 48; Knowsley Menagerie, t. ; *Trionyx argus*, Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. B.M. 68. When I compare this specimen with the specimen of *Trionyx spiniferus* which I have received from North America, I am very doubtful whether there must not have been some confusion about the habitat of the specimen, and whether it is not more probably a North American species—especially as since our increased intercourse with West Africa we have not received any more specimens.

The head of the specimen figured in the 'Knowsley Menagerie,' which is now in the British Museum, has the nose elongate-conical; and the forehead, as shown in the dry specimen, is elongated, lozenge-shaped, much longer than broad.

B. *Skull oblong, thin; nose very short; eyes anterior; forehead elongate, longer than the face; palate flat, with a scarcely raised alveolar edge, and only a very slight depression before and behind the internal nostrils.*

a. *Skull short and broad, much depressed; alveolar edge of both jaws flat, simple.*

#### PELOCHELYS.

Head depressed, moderate-sized; the face very short, shelving; eyes rather close together, superior; the forehead flat, rather concave; skull much depressed, broad; nose very short, shelving; orbits very large, subanterior; forehead depressed, rather concave; præfrontal bones large; præmaxillary bones none; the maxillar bone circumscribing the lower edge of the exterior nostrils. Palate nearly flat, very broad, rather convex in the centre behind, slightly concave (but without any central groove) in front of the internal nostrils. Internal nostrils oblique, oblong, with a rather wide, deep, short groove behind each of them. The alveolar edge flat, simple, with an acute scarcely raised edge. Lower jaw very slender, weak, with a simple sharp edge, with a slightly thickened internal rib. The first vertebral plate of the shield as broad as the front edge of the second one.

Professor Owen, in the account of the skull of this genus which is in the College of Surgeons, named *Trionyx bibroni*, no. 954, describes the difference between it and the skull of *Trionyx gangeticus*, and a *Tyrse* allied to *T. nilotica*, and he also describes some peculiarities in the formation of the dorsal disk (see Cat. Osteol. Spec. Mus. Coll. Surg. p. 185, nos. 954–959).



## 1. PELOCHELYS CANTORII. (Skull, figs. 9, 10.)

*Chitra indica*, Blyth, J. A. S. 1863, xl. 77; Günther, Indian Rept. t. (not Gray).

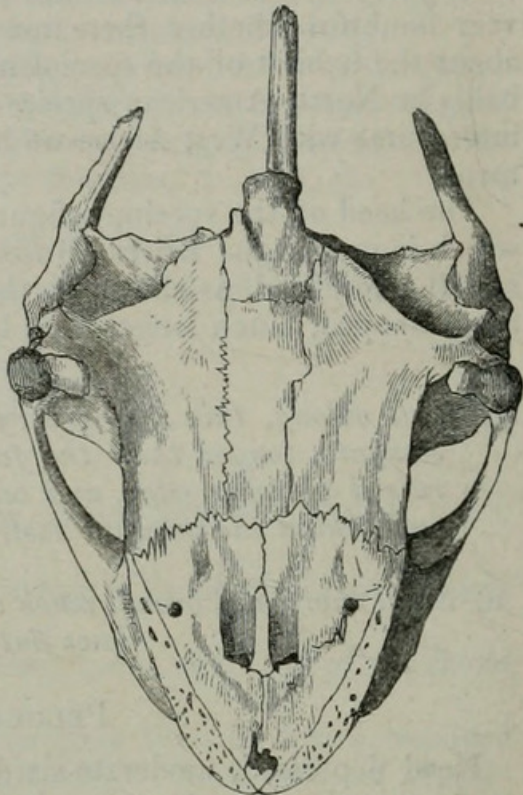
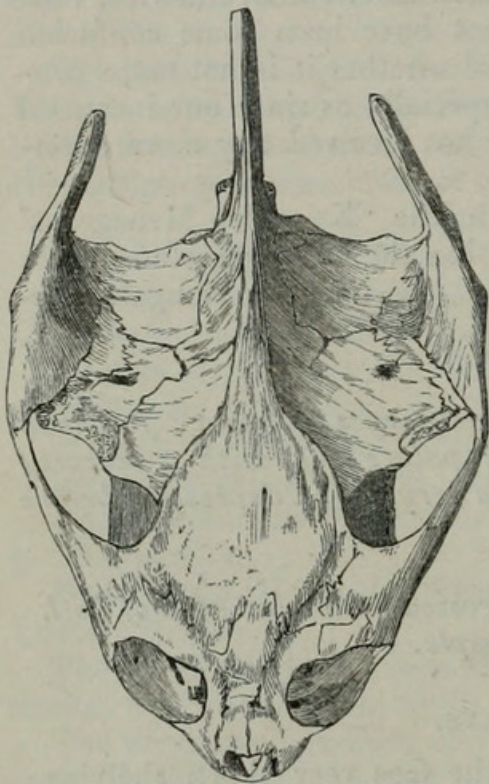
*Gymnopus indicus*, Cantor, Rept. Malacca, 10.

*Hab.* Malacca, marine (Cantor; Blyth).

Dr. Günther, who soaked Dr. Cantor's specimen, says he observed some black lines on the head and throat, and some dark marbling on the edge of the dorsal disk as in *Chitra indica*.

Fig. 9.

Fig. 10.

*Pelochelys cantorii.*

## 2. PELOCHELYS CUMINGII.

*Chitra indica* (part), Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. B.M. p. 70.

*Hab.* Philippines (Cuming).

Much larger than the preceding, which has the sternal callosities fully developed.

The young specimens that Mr. Cuming brought home, apparently belonging to the same species, have the head olive, minutely black-dotted; the throat olive, minutely white-speckled.

## 3. PELOCHELYS BIBRONII?.

*Trionyx (Gymnopus) bibroni*, Owen, Cat. Osteol. Spec. Mus. Coll. Surg. p. 185, nos. 951-959.

*Hab.* ?Australia (Capt. Sir E. Home, F.R.S., fide Owen).

This is only known from a skull, a dorsal disk, and some other bones in the Museum of the College of Surgeons.



Prof. Owen, in the 'Catalogue of the Osteological Specimens in the Museum of the College of Surgeons,' describes the skull on which this species is founded. It differs from the skull of the young specimens of *P. cantorii* in the Museum collection from Malacca in being rather longer compared with its width; but then that may depend on the age of the specimen, for its size and the bones of the dorsal disk show that it belongs to a more adult specimen than the young one with which I was able to compare it.

There is some doubt as to the skull in the College of Surgeons having been obtained from Australia, as I have never heard of any Mud-Tortoises being found in that country; and it is not unlikely that the specimen was obtained from Singapore, or if obtained from Australia may have been carried there.

b. *Skull elongate; forehead shelving, much produced behind; nose very short, convex; alveolar edge of both jaws with a deep groove.*

#### CHITRA.

*Chitra*, Gray, Cat. Tort. B.M. 49; Cat. Shield Rept. 70.

The head elongate, depressed; nose very short; eyes near the front margin; forehead elongate, slightly convex, shelving. Skull elongate, ventricose, thin, light; the nose very short, convex; orbits very large, near the front margin; the forehead very much elongated, several times as long as the face, shelving, slightly convex (see Cat. Shield Reptiles, t. 41). Palate flat, concave in the centre; internal nostrils anterior, with only a very slight, very broad depression behind each of them; alveolar edge with a deep angular groove, concentric, with sharp outer edges. Lower jaw strong, with a deep angular alveolar groove, concentric with the sharp outer edges (see Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. B.M. t. 41). The first vertebral plate of the dorsal disk is rather broad and transverse, arched in front; but (in the younger specimen at least) it is not so broad as the front edge of the second vertebral plate of the disk.

This genus and *Pelochelys* are so similar externally, especially in the dried or stuffed specimens, that the specimens were named alike in the British Museum, and so remained for years, though in the meantime they had been examined by several herpetologists, both English and foreign. It is only by a slight difference in the length of the head, compared with the width and the flatness and slight convexity of the forehead, that they can be distinguished, different as the forms of the skulls are.

#### 1. CHITRA INDICA. (Skull, figs. 11, 12.)

*Testudo chitra*, B. Hamilton, Icon. ined.

*Trionyx ægyptiacus*, var. *indicus*, Gray, Illust. Ind. Zool. i. t. 80.

*Trionyx indicus*, Gray, Syn. Rept. 47.

*Chitra indica*, Gray, Cat. Tort. B.M. 49; Cat. Shield Rept. B.M. 70 (part), t. 41 (skull).

*Gymnopus lineatus*, Dum. et Bib. Erp. Gén. ii. 491.

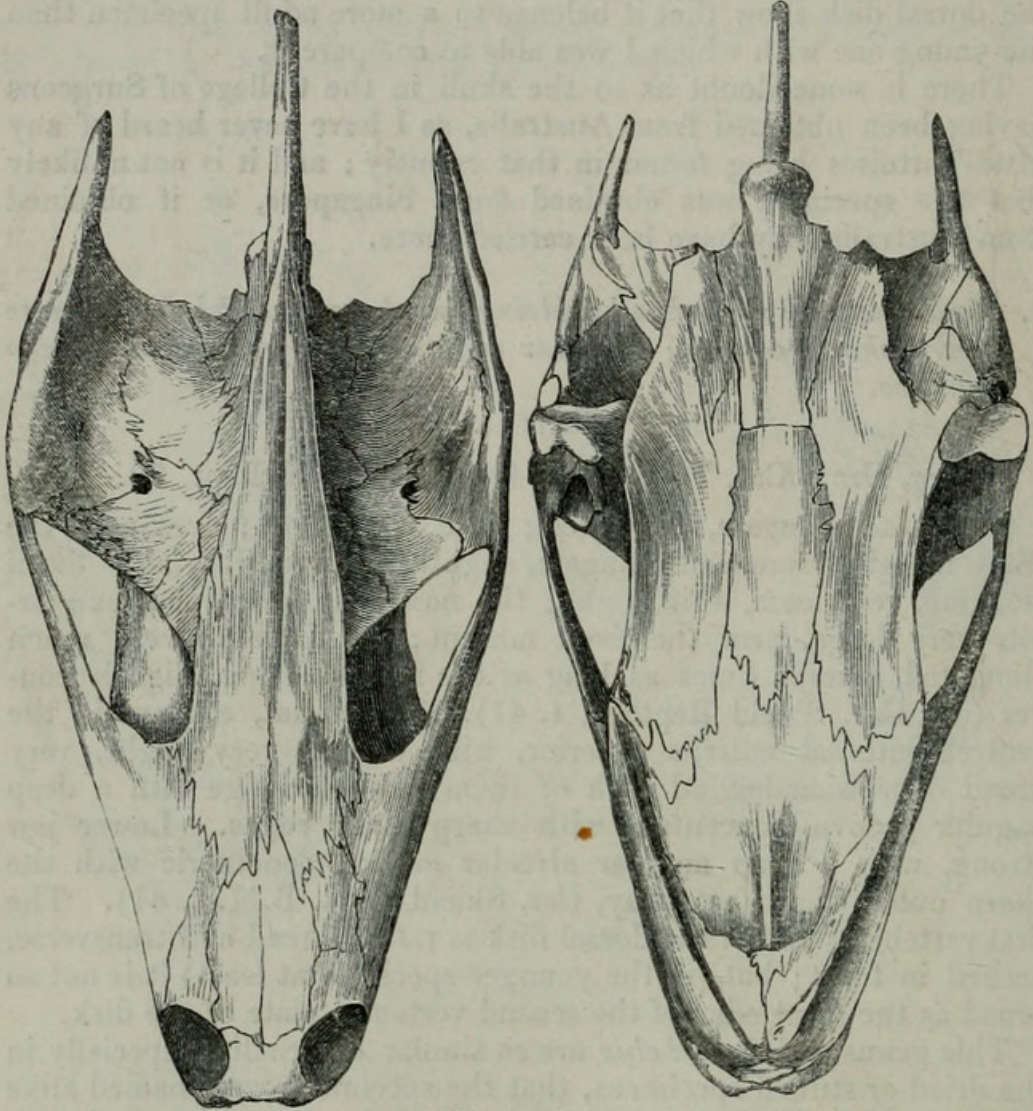


*Hab.* India: Ganges; Futtaghur (*Hardwicke*); Nepal (*Falconer, Boys*).

The young specimens are olive, with short black lines on the head, and dorsal disk marbled with darker bands and streaks.

Fig. 11.

Fig. 12.

*Chitra indica.*

II. *The aberrant Mud-Tortoises, with covered hind feet, have a broad sternum, furnished with a moveable valve on each side behind, which covers the hind feet when they are contracted; and there are seven or nine sternal callosities.*

a. *The margin of the dorsal disk flexible, without any internal bones; the skull short, depressed, flat above; the palate flat, with scarcely any alveolar ridges, and only a very slight pit before and behind the internal nostrils. Heptathyrina.*

#### HEPTATHYRA.

*Heptathyra*, Cope.

*Aspidochelys*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1860.



Face of skull very short, flat above; forehead flat, rather concave, slightly swollen between the hinder parts of the eyes. The palate flat, slightly concave in the middle behind the posterior nostrils. The edge of the maxilla nearly flat, with a narrow slightly raised edge.

Fig. 13.

Fig. 14.

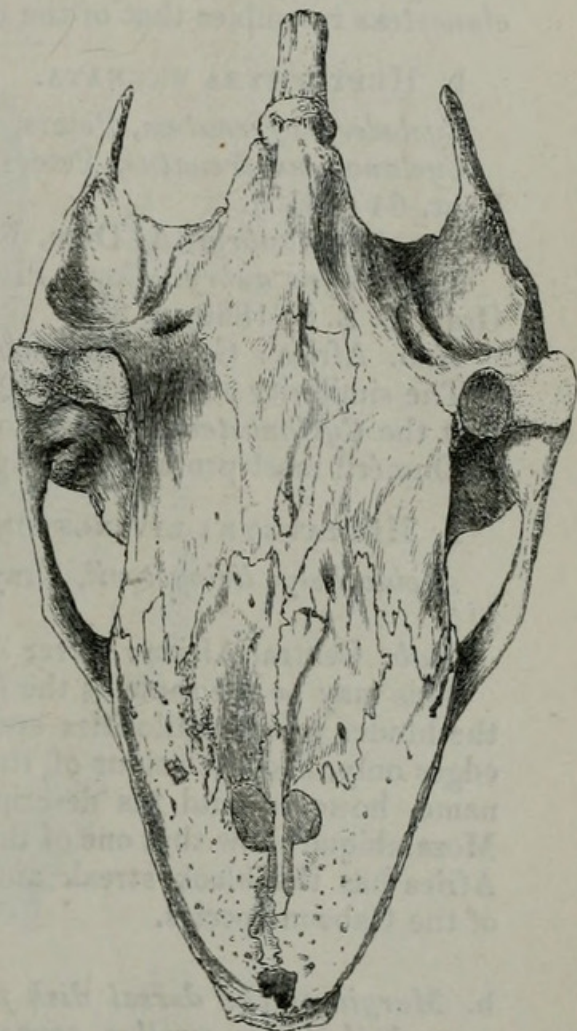
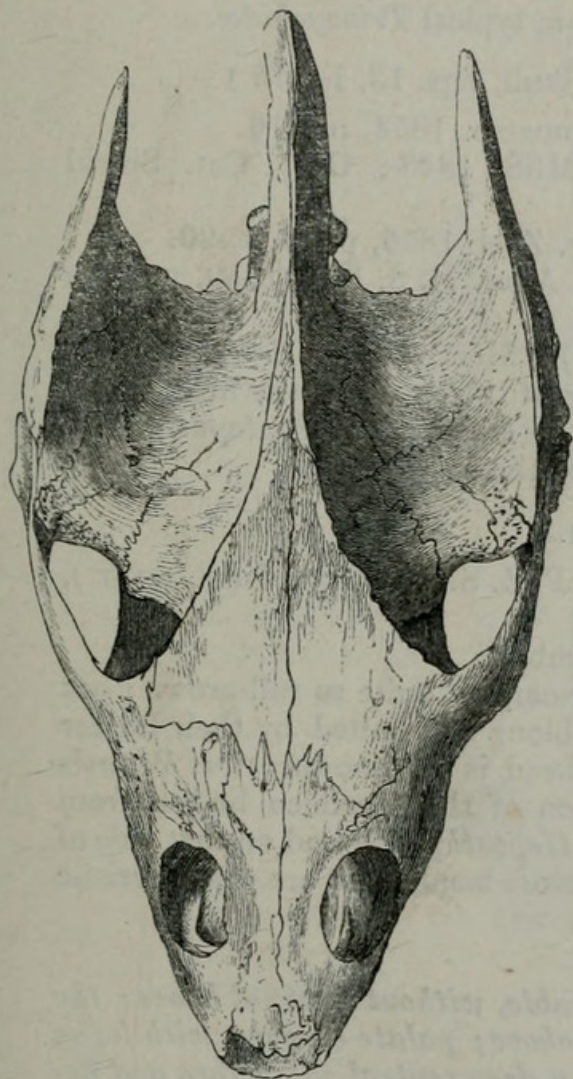
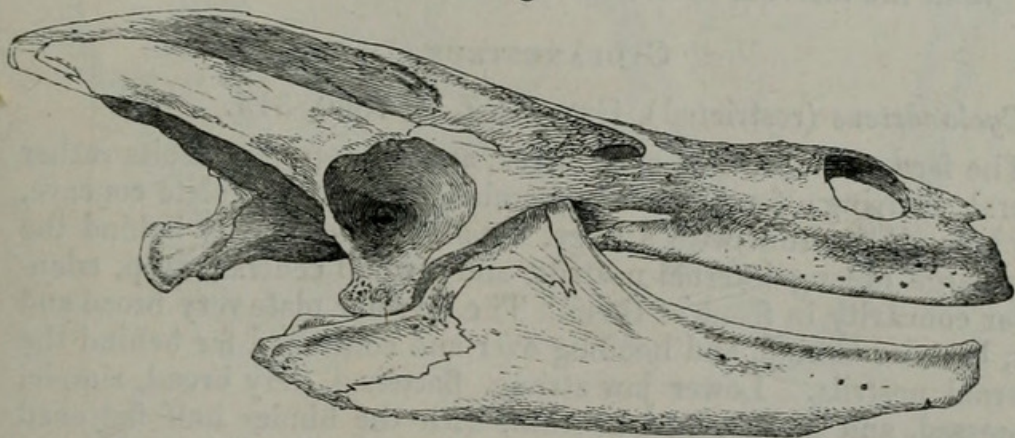


Fig. 15.

*Heptathyra frenata.*



The genus *Cycloderma* of Peters was instituted to contain all the *Cryptopi* of Duméril, which had a boneless flexible margin to the shield, without paying any attention to the number of the callosities, which are also coexistent with a very differently shaped skull and, doubtless, different habits in the animal.

The skull of this genus is analogous to the skull of the genus *Pe-lochelys* among the naked-footed *Trionychidæ*, as the skull of *Cyclanosteus* resembles that of the more typical *Trionychidæ*.

1. HEPTATHYRA FRENATA. (Skull, figs. 13, 14, 15.)

*Cycloderma frenatum*, Peters, Monatsb. 1854, p. 216.

*Cyclanosteus frenatus*, Peters, MSS. 1848; Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. 64 (1855).

*Cryptopus aubryi*, A. Dum. Rev. Zool. 1856, p. 37, t. 20.

*Heptathyra aubryi*, Cope, Proc. Acad. N. S. Phil. 1859, p. 296; Gray, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 315.

*Hab.* Africa: Gaboon (Duméril); Mozambique (Peters).

The similarity of the descriptions of the bands on the head shows that the *Cyclanosteus frenatus* of Peters and the *Cryptopus aubryi* of Duméril most probably belong to the same species.

2. HEPTATHYRA LIVINGSTONII.

*Aspidochelys livingstonii*, Gray, P. Z. S. 1860, pp. 6 (pl. XXII.), 315.

*Hab.* Central Africa: River Zambesi.

This may be the same as the former, not quite so full-grown; but the hinder pair of callosities are oblong and united by their hinder edges only, and the colour of the head is not known. Dr. Peters's name, however, and his description of the specimen he had from Mozambique show that one of the *Heptathyra* found on that side of Africa has the black streak and cross bands that are characteristic of the Gaboon species.

- b. *Margin of the dorsal disk flexible, without internal bones; the skull oblong, swollen, convex above; palate concave, with large distinct alveolar plates, and a deep central pit before and behind the internal nostrils.* Cyclanosteina.

CYCLANOSTEUS.

*Cyclanosteus* (restricted), Gray, P. Z. S. 1860, 315.

The face of the skull short, convex, arched in front; orbits rather lateral, shelving; forehead flat, rhombic, elongate. Palate concave, flat behind; in front with a large, broad, deep concavity behind the very large oblong internal nostrils, and a small central, deep, triangular concavity in front of them. The alveolar plate very broad and flat, broader behind, and hooding over and continued far behind the internal nostrils. Lower jaw strong, flattened, very broad, simple, depressed, and sharp-edged in front, with the hinder half flattened out internally into an ovate, rather concave alveolar disk.





Gould, John. 1864. "February 23, 1864." *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London* 1864, 68–98. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1469-7998.1864.tb00400.x>.

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