

fresh-water mollusca. The Testudinata, or land-Tortoises, are too well known to render any description requisite for our present purpose.

In the marine species, eight pairs of ribs, and thirteen plates of the longitudinal series, form the buckler; the ribs are united to each other through a great part of their extent; but towards their distal extremities each rib contracts, and terminates in a point, which is supported on a marginal series of bony plates, or scutes; the intervals between the ribs are filled up in the living animal by a cartilaginous membrane, which never becomes ossified. This character, therefore, affords an important aid in the discrimination of the fossil remains of this family.\*

In the terrestrial and fresh-water Tortoises, the ossification is complete in the adult state; but in those fluviatile species, the Trionyces, which are without a horny shell, there is no border, or marginal series of bony plates or scutes, and the extremities of the ribs are therefore always distinct, and generally have an obtuse extremity. The skeletons of the three groups present corresponding modifications, and an accurate knowledge of the osteology of the recent animals is necessary to enable the palæon-

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\* The reader will recognise this peculiarity in the gilded skeleton of the carapace of Turtles, commonly exhibited in the soup-shops of the metropolis.