

Since I have had an opportunity of comparing all the North American Testudinata with one another, alive,¹ I cannot cease to wonder that the marked generic peculiarities of the Emydoids should have been so entirely overlooked. I have already stated (p. 246) that the so-called *Cistudo Blandingii* is a true *Emys*; it is the North American representative of the common European *Emys* (*Lutremys*, Gray.) Now that its natural relations are accurately determined, it should henceforth be called *Emys Meleagris*, as this specific name is older than that of *Blandingii*. But, among the other North American Emydoids we find several other generic types. *Emys scabra* (*serrata*), *Troostii* and *elegans* (*cumberlandensis*) constitute a distinct genus, which I call *TRACHEMYS*; whilst *Emys mobiliensis*, *concinna* (*floridana*), and *rugosa* (*rubriventris*) constitute another genus under the name of *PTYCHEMYS*; and *Emys geographica* and *Lessueurii* (*E. pseudo-geographica*) still another under the name of *GRAPTEMYS*. *Emys picta*, *Bellii*, and several new species, constitute also a distinct genus, already recognized by Gray, and called by him *CHRYSEMYS*. *Emys guttata* is also the type of a distinct genus, which I call *NANEMYS*. *Emys Mühlenbergii* is the type of the genus I have named *CALEMYS*, and *Emys concentrica* constitutes still another genus, already named *MALACLEMYS* by Gray; this and *Chrysemys* being the only ones thus far noticed as generically distinct from the other types of Emydoids inhabiting North America. *Emys reticulata* constitutes also a new genus, *DEIROCHELYS*; *Emys insculpta* another, *GLYPTEMYS*; and *Emys marmorata* *B.* and *G.* (*E. nigra*, *Hal.*) still another, *ACTINEMYS*. The North American Testudinina belong to the new genus, *XEROBATES*. All these new genera and several new species, peculiar to the United States, are characterized below.

SECTION III.

ESSENTIAL CHARACTERS OF THE ORDER OF TESTUDINATA.

There is scarcely any order among Vertebrates so well defined and so naturally circumscribed as that of the Turtles. The cycle of their modifications, notwithstanding the diversity of sub-orders, families, and genera which they include, is so narrow, the external systems of organs, even the proportions of the body, are so

¹ The number of living turtles I had an opportunity of examining and preserving for months and years in my yard, will appear incredible to European naturalists. I have had them and their eggs by the thousands, thanks to the kindness of my

friends in every part of the country; and I shall avail myself, in the next chapter, of the opportunity duly to mention all these favors, when enumerating singly all our species and the precise localities where they are found.