

In the sub-order of Amydæ, the same features which characterize the Chelonii obtain again, though within still more restricted limits. The aquatic Amydæ have a wider range than the terrestrial; and while the lower representatives of the sub-order are fluviatile, the higher are terrestrial. The lowest Amydæ, the Trionychidæ, have truly the widest distribution; for while in the Old World they are chiefly limited to the tropical fresh waters, in the New World they are only found within the temperate zone of North America, extending as far north and as high in the mountains as any other Turtles, indeed much farther north, and higher up, than any land Turtles, and even beyond the natural boundaries of the Emydoidæ. The family of Chelydroidæ is already much more restricted in its range, being limited to the temperate zone of the eastern side of the North American and of the Asiatic continents. The Chelyoidæ, on the contrary, are circumscribed within the fresh waters of tropical South America; whilst the Cinosternoidæ extend over the temperate parts of North America, over Central America, and over the warmer regions of South America. The Hydraspidæ, on the contrary, prevail in South America, and extend also to Southern Asia, to Africa, and to New Holland. The family of Emydoidæ, which is, as it were, the central type of the Amydæ, is the only one among the fresh-water Turtles which has representatives simultaneously in North and South America, in Europe, in Africa, and in Asia, though the range of the individual species is very limited in this family also, much more so, indeed, than the species of the lower families of the aquatic Amydæ, or those of the Chelonii. The highest Amydæ, the Testudinina, or land Turtles, are the most limited in their range, if we contrast them with the whole number of fresh-water Testudinata, for they do not extend beyond the limits of the warmer parts of the temperate zone, while the aquatic Amydæ are not only found in the tropical fresh waters, but also in those of the warm, and even of the colder parts of the temperate zone. It may perhaps seem unnatural, that I should thus contrast the Testudinina, which constitute only one family, with the many families of fresh-water Amydæ; but it is just the object of physical geography to ascertain what are the natural relations between the physical conditions of the surface of the globe and the organized beings which live upon it.

I shall enter into more details respecting the special distribution of the North American Testudinata, after I have considered more fully their generic and specific relations to one another. There is one more point, however, which deserves to be noticed in this connection. The Chelonii proper, which are the lowest, and at the same time the only marine Testudinata, are also the largest representatives of the whole order; next in size are some of the fresh-water Amydæ, of the family of Chelydroidæ, which are very large, as are also some of the Testudinina. The average size of the fresh-water Amydæ exceeds, nevertheless, that of the terrestrial ones,