

is here little more than a broad girdle encircling the thorax and abdomen. The carapace has no sharp distinct marginal rim, but curves round over the outer edge and meets the plastron somewhat under the body; this curved outer edge rises constantly backwards.

The carapace is strengthened by several longitudinal ridges, the most prominent of which is along the middle of the back; it is low and small at the front end, but grows higher and broader backward, until just over the sacrum it includes the whole width of the carapace, thence it lowers to the hind end, making this narrow, unsupported part of the shield much firmer than it would be if it was flat on each side. Beginning at the angle of the truncated front end is another ridge, highest at the front end and diminishing backward, so that near the front end the two together render the top of the body nearly flat; but over the pelvis they change the curve of the surface but little. There are two more pairs of ridges outside, but they are quite small, and the lowest one little more than a row of bony nodules. The dermal shield, as in all Turtles, rests upon the vertebral column of the thoracic and abdominal regions, upon the ribs, upon the isolated true bone above the lower neck vertebræ, and upon the true bones of the sternum. Over all these is wrapped a thick layer of coarse fibrous corium.¹ In the carapace, this fibrous corium is protected and stiffened by an overlying sheet of bony pavement. This pavement² nowhere rests upon or touches the true skeleton; it is perfectly continuous, without any other suture than those of its pavement-like structure, and without intervals above the ends of the ribs. This bony sheet curves with the carapace at its lower edge, but does not extend over the plastron. The ridges of the carapace, spoken of above, are made by angles in this sheet, filled up below by an increased thickness of the corium, but the lower surface of the latter has no corresponding depressions. Along each of the ridges is a row of nodules. In the plastron, the thick layer of fibrous corium is not at all protected by a bony sheet, and has no bony derm, excepting some rows of nodules; these rows are somewhat irregular, but there are, in general, five of them, a double one along the middle, and two single ones on each side. The corium is supported on its inner surface by the true bones of the sternum, of which there are four pairs; these are long, narrow, and arranged in a continuous row, encircling the flattened, horizontal surface. The foremost pair meet between the fore legs, and at their meeting are broad and strong; they spread apart backward, and overlap the outside of the second pair; the latter send out a process behind each shoulder; the second and third pairs extend the whole length of that part of the plastron which spreads entirely across the body, and

¹ See Chap. 1, Sect. 4 and 5, p. 256 and 263.

² See Chap. 1, Sect. 5, p. 264.