

the carapace, also project beyond the attached surface of the body. As the flattened surface is so broad here, the bridge which connects it with the outer edge of the carapace is much shorter than in the *Chelydroidæ*, and rises more steeply, but its ends are less concave, and it is broader.

The whole shield is ossified. The arrangement of the bony plates is, in some respects, quite peculiar. The costal plates are constant, eight in number; the marginal plates, too, are constant; there is one odd one at each end, one for each costal, and two from the front odd one to the first of those which are attached to the ends of the ribs, and one from the last of these to the hind odd one, making twenty-four in all. But the vertebral row is deficient; it varies in number from five to seven, the last two or three being wanting, so that the upper ends of the corresponding costals meet one another, and sometimes the front one is equally wanting, so that the first costals meet also. The plastron, in the adult at least, is made up of only eight plates, four pairs; for there is no odd one, as in all the other families of the sub-order. In consequence of the absence of an odd bone in the plastron, the median suture extends without interruption from one end of the plastron to the other, dividing it into equal halves along the middle line. The two pairs of plates, which reach entirely across the body, and are sutured to the carapace, do not make up more than one third of the whole length; they are but little longer in the body of the plastron than in the bridge from thence to the carapace. The front and hind pairs are both broad as well as long; they are generally joined to the other pair by a flexible hinge,¹ except the hind pair in *Ozotheca*; but in old age these hinges are either partially or completely ossified. The middle transverse suture is always thoroughly ossified, and never flexible.

The fixed part of the vertebral column rises backward with the middle line of the carapace nearly to the seventh vertebra, and thence descends steeply. The tail is never long and strong enough to aid in bearing the weight of the body, as it is in the *Chelydroidæ*. In the males it is much larger and longer than in the females, and terminates with a horny nail.

The body projects farther beyond the upper part of the scapular arch than in the *Emydoidea*, and that arch is carried far back in descending to the plastron, so far that the coracoid reaches across the middle transverse suture. The pelvis,

¹ The movable parts of the plastron are thus different in their composition and in their attachment from those of *Cistudo* and *Emys*, inasmuch as in *Cinosternoidæ* they swing upon an immovable transverse beam, consisting of two pairs of plates which

are soldered to the sides of the carapace, while in the *Emydoidea* with movable plastron the hinge divides the whole plastron transversely into halves which swing upon one another, and the sides of the plastron, where they meet the carapace, remain also movable.