

the free edges above and below project beyond the attached surface of the body. The middle region is the part entirely encircled by the shield. As this region is here so predominant, the plastron is longer and broader under it, and its suture with the carapace longer, and the openings about the ends shorter, than in the *Emydoidæ*. The other parts of the plastron, that is, the parts which underlie the regions at the ends, are comparatively short and small, narrowing rapidly towards the ends of the body; indeed, they are so reduced as to appear like mere projections; they are both turned out of the general level of the lower surface, the front one turned up and the hind one turned down. The hind one does not underlie the whole of its region, but the body projects beyond it all around the sides and hind end, so that the opening is outside as well as above it. There is a broad space between its outer end and the carapace behind; and, when it is longest, this end is deeply notched. The projecting free edges of the carapace flare outward over these openings. Over the one about the hind end of the body, it flares outward considerably at the sides, but less and less backward, until, just behind the tail, it continues the steep descent of the carapace above, directly down, and reaches nearly or quite as low, and often lower, than the general level of the plastron.

The shield is entirely ossified, and the general arrangement of all the bony plates is similar to that which we find in the *Emydoidæ*; but the marginal plates are longer, and the two pairs in the plastron which are sutured to the carapace larger, than in that family. To meet the neck, the first one or two fixed vertebræ are turned down more steeply than the carapace above; the first one is in the front margin of the body. Over the middle region, the column follows the general direction of the carapace above, and with it turns abruptly down, shortly before reaching the sacrum, and continues in its steep descent through the latter, and to the end of the tail. As the sacrum is so high up here, the vertebral column below is necessarily very long, before it reaches the surface of the body; it protrudes but little, and the skin does not close around it till very near the end, so that there is only a short, stubbed tail visible. The vertebræ of this part of the column are flattened on the upper and lower surfaces.

The scapular arch is nearly perpendicular, and very high; the acromion and coracoid process are both short, and the shoulders not wide apart; the humerus is broad at the elbow joint, and the tibia and fibula make the forearm broad; the bones of the wrist, hand, and fingers, are all short and compact, and move but little upon one another, or upon the end of the forearm. The fingers are all close together, down to the last joints; these joints protrude free, and are covered with flat, sharp nails. When the muscles and skin are attached, the foot is kept nearly on a plane with the forearm above, and the whole limb below the elbow is