

of the hind feet, and over the heel, and a little way above the back surface of the hips, and the space intervening between them, and over the upper surface of the tail.

The size in this family is greater than in any other of the sub-order. The Gallapago Turtle, *Cylindrapis indica*, may be rated at about three feet, the African Coui, *Psammobates radiatus*, at eighteen inches, the South American *Chelonoides tabulata* at fifteen, our Gopher, *Xerobates carolinus*, at twelve, and the common European land Turtle, *Testudo græca*, at eight inches in length. Thus they are all comparatively large,—except the European species, which is the smallest of the whole family,—and, on the whole, by no means as small as some of the *Emydoidæ*; but the great height and fulness of the body make the relative size still much larger than the comparison of their length alone would indicate.

This family live entirely on dry land; and when placed in the water, they try to walk as if on land, having no true swimming motion. In walking, they carry the body high up from the ground; the legs are not spread so far apart, and move in a plane more nearly perpendicular, than in the *Emydoidæ*; moreover, as the hands are fixed in the plane of the forearm, the body is raised up on the ends of the fingers, or at least upon the last joints; the hind legs rest indeed upon the whole lower surface of the foot but the knee joint, when the foot is first brought to the ground, is open to about a right angle, and the foreleg, which is always long, is nearly perpendicular, so that this end of the body is raised to about the same height as the other. They walk with a firmer and more steady gait, and travel for a distance with greater rapidity, or rather less slowly, than any other Turtles. The front leg is carried forward, and the sharp, spade-like nails being fixed to the ground, the body is pulled toward it, the elbow joint closing, and the forearm and humerus approaching one another. The deltoid muscles, which do the most in pulling the body forward, are here very largely developed. The hind leg is carried round to the side of the pelvis, so that the humerus, then nearly horizontal, reaches almost directly forward; the knee is bent to about a right angle, and the whole lower surface of the foot, with the nails, rests upon the ground; then as the body is pushed forward, the angle of the knee-joint opens, and the leg straightens out. The simultaneous opening of the knee and closing of the elbow keep the body, while moving, steady on one plane, and there is here a regularity in the walking motion far beyond that of any other family of Testudinata.

The animal has nothing of the ferocious dispositions of most other families; it always retreats from attack, and will not bite, even when pushed to extremity; it first seeks some hiding-place, but if it is hindered in this, and the danger is close at hand, it resorts to its shield, and trusts solely to it for protection. The