

very small, being formed on a small ridge projecting inward. From this region backward the alveolar edge is sharp, and rises constantly, and the horizontal alveolar surface widens to its hind end, which slants forward, however, to the union with the palatines. The alveolar wall of the mouth is turned inward at the lateral notch on each side, and outward at its hind end, and thus curves irregularly. The vomer descends just back of the symphysis of the jaw, so as to make behind it a deep inverted pit, into which the pointed end of the lower jaw fits. The palatines have each two distinct planes, one horizontal and continuous with the horizontal alveolar surface, the other raised toward the vomer; the former begins in front at a point, and widens backward; the latter rises highest and steepest at its front end. The passages from the nasal cavity to the mouth are very large. They lie on each side of the front end of the vomer, between it and the maxillaries and the end of the palatine. The lower jaw is highest near the articulation and the symphysis; its upper and lower edges draw near each other forward till near the front end, where the alveolar edge rises suddenly to a strong, sharp projection, and the lower edge curves down a little. The alveolar edge is sharp. The outer surface, at the symphysis, curves outward in passing from the point down to the lower edge.

There are no scales over the skin. None of the fingers project free, and thus none have nails. The epidermis over the jaws is not thickened into a horny sheath. Upon the ossified derm, the epidermis is very thin. On the neck and limbs and tail, the skin is thick and leathery, and its epidermis hard and compact.

The prevailing opinion among herpetologists is, that there exists only one single species of *Sphargis*, which is said to occur along the shores of Eastern Asia, especially about Japan, in South Africa, about the Cape of Good Hope, and in the Atlantic, chiefly in the West Indies and the southernmost coasts of the United States, and in the Mediterranean. But, in my opinion, it is not yet by any means clearly proved that the specimens observed in these different stations truly belong to the same species. Our museums are still so indifferently provided with representatives of this genus, that no sufficient comparison has thus far been made between individuals obtained in different parts of the world; and as long as it can be shown that the Loggerheads, the green Turtles, and the shell Turtles of the Atlantic differ from those of the Pacific, mere descriptions, without the additional evidence of direct comparison, are insufficient to settle the question of the specific identity or difference of the leather Turtles of the two great oceans. It is true that Temminck and Schlegel assert that the *Sphargis* of Japan<sup>1</sup> is iden-

<sup>1</sup> SIEBOLD, (Ph. Fr. de) Fauna japonica. *Cheilonii elaborantibus Temminck et Schlegel*, Lugduni

Batavorum, 1833, fol. This work contains important remarks upon the anatomy of the Testudinata.