

from its frequency in some parts of the Atlantic Ocean, whilst it is only met with accidentally in others, it is plain that the West Indies is its home, and that it is not indigenous to Europe, since in three centuries it has not been observed more than nine times in Europe, whereas it is seen at all seasons about the Bahamas.<sup>1</sup> This conclusion is strengthened by the fact that it is less and less common as we recede from the Floridas northward; though from time to time it is carried north by the Gulf Stream, and cast ashore along the Southern and Middle States, and more rarely as far north as Cape Cod. It therefore becomes highly probable, that the specimens seen in Europe, on the coasts of England and France, and in the Mediterranean, had followed the Gulf Stream across the Atlantic, and finally landed in regions very distant from their native seas. This fact is highly important with reference to the question of the identity of the *Thalassochelys Caouana*, found also on both sides of the Atlantic.

Judging from the figures of the eastern *Sphargis* published by Ph. Fr. von Siebold in his *Fauna japonica*, taking especially into consideration the form and relative size of the head, the emarginations of the jaws, and the relative size of the fins, I am inclined to believe that there exists a second species of *Sphargis* in the Pacific Ocean, along the shores of Asia, which wanders southwards, with the Asiatic shore currents, to an extent not yet ascertained. It is also reported by Temminck and Schlegel that *Sphargis* is found about the Cape of Good Hope, and that young specimens collected in that region, by Dr. van Horstok, are preserved in the museum at Leyden. It is further stated by them, that the figures published by Wagler are drawn from a young specimen from the Cape of Good Hope, presented to the museum of Munich by the museum of Leyden. This being the case, the question at once arises, whether these figures represent truly the same species as that which occurs in the waters of the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, or whether there exist two other species of *Sphargis*, besides that of the Atlantic, one of which would be peculiar to the Asiatic shores of the Pacific Ocean, and the other to the seas bathing the southern extremity of Africa. With the great powers of locomotion which these Turtles possess, it is, however, also possible that Asiatic specimens find their way to the Cape, and hence to the West Indies; in which case the same species would be found wandering through all the oceans. But nothing short of a direct comparison of a series of specimens from each locality will settle this question.

<sup>1</sup> Supposing the American specimens to be distinct from the European, LeSueur distinguishes two species of *Sphargis*, and calls the American, *Dermochelys atlantica*. The young has also been described as a distinct species, at first called *Testudo tuberculata*

by Pennant, and afterwards referred to *Sphargis*, as *Sph. tuberculata*, by Gravenhorst. For more special references to the authors mentioned above, consult Duméril and Bibron, *Erpét. génér.*, Hollbrook's *N. American Herpet.*, and Cuvier's *Fauna italica*.