

edge above, first at the hind end, and thence forward successively; but, as the front tooth is longer than the others, it reaches the plane of the alveolar edge above before those which are nearest to it on each side. The whole horny surface of the mouth is rough, and its ridges sharp and pointed. As the head is high and narrow, the upper surface is small, and the cheeks large; consequently the field of scales is small on the top of the head, and those on each side large. The row of scales encircling the large scale in the middle of the skull is regular, and consists of seven scales. This row reaches partly down on the sides; below them there is a field of from fifteen to twenty scales on the cheeks, not counting the very small ones about the articulation of the jaws. In front of the circle of seven scales, there is one pair of long ones, which reach down to the nose.

The body is oblong, broad across the middle, not keeled or flattened above. It has a narrow marginal rim. The scales are everywhere thin and flexible, and meet edge to edge, being nowhere imbricated.

Thus far, only two well characterized species of this genus have been noticed; the common green Turtle of the Atlantic Ocean, and the mottled Turtle of the Pacific. At least, I can only distinguish them in this way; and I must call in question the statements which report *Chelonia Mydas*, as found in the Indian Ocean, the Red Sea, and China, as well as those according to which the mottled Turtle, *Chelonia virgata*, would also occur in the Atlantic.¹

CHELONIA MYDAS, Schw. The green Turtle of the Atlantic² is nowhere so common as about Ascension, where the largest numbers are caught. It is very common on the Bahamas and among the West Indies, especially at Cayman's Island, where large numbers breed; also in the Bay of Honduras and Campeachy, and along the coasts of Guiana and Brazil. It also inhabits the coasts of Florida, and of the southern United States bordering upon the Gulf of Mexico; but it is seldom found as far north as the thirty-fourth degree of northern latitude, and is rarely caught as far north as Sandy Hook. It is never seen along the coast of New

¹ It is not surprising that seamen should mistake the two kinds of green Turtles which occur in the Atlantic and in the Pacific, as they are closely allied, and vary both to some extent in color, so that the radinted variety of the green Turtle (*Chel. Mydas*) is often darker and more extensively tinged with chestnut brown than the Pacific species, (*Chel. virgata*), which is occasionally quite as green as its Atlantic representative. Statements respecting the geographical distribution of these species should

therefore be sifted with the utmost care, as it is probable that the indications of the presence of *Chelonia virgata* in the Atlantic are owing to a confusion in labelling the specimens.

² The names most frequently applied to this species are *Testudo Mydas*, *Chelonia Mydas*, *Testudo viridis*, *Chelonia viridis*, *Caretta esculenta*, and *Chelonia esculenta*. For fuller references, see Duméril and Bibron, *Erpét. géner.*, and Dr. Holbrook's *N. Amer. Herpetology*.