

II. ERETMOCHELYS, *Füz.*

The genus *Eretmochelys* was first noticed by Fitzinger¹ as distinct from *Chelonia*. The head is low; its upper surface is broader than in *Chelonia*, and its descent to the nose less. The mouth is long and narrow. The sides of the upper jaw are compressed, and the front end drawn out forward and downward, so that its lower edge is in advance of the nose, and below the general plane of the edges of the sides. The front end is narrow and blunt, and keeps about the same width from the nose down to the lower edge, which, therefore, is not pointed, but like the curved edge of a chisel. The edges of the sides are nearly straight. The inner vertical surface of this jaw is broad at the hind end, and narrows thenceforward for the greater part of its length, but widens for a short distance to the front end. This widening at the front end is not caused by a pit-like depression in the horny roof, but by a gentle rise of the latter at the symphysis. The surface of the horny roof falls from without inward to a ridge, which is divided at the symphysis by a deep transverse depression; it is most prominent on each side of this depression, and decreases thence backward; from the front end backward it approaches the outer wall for some distance, and then again recedes from it. The furrow between this ridge and the outer wall is widest and deepest at the front end; it narrows to about midway, and then widens again to the hind end; but this latter widened part is only a slight depression. Within the ridge, the surface rises to its inner edge; it is as broad at the symphysis as the furrow; it decreases backward, and vanishes at the hind end. The lower jaw is also long and narrow; it is drawn out forward and upward at the front end; the alveolar edge of this end is not pointed, but curved, and is as high as the angle of the jaw. The alveolar edges at the sides are nearly straight; they are not sharp for the whole length, but thick

¹ In his *Systema Reptilium*, published in 1843. In 1844, J. E. Gray, in the *Cat. of the Brit. Mus.*, adopted it, but changed the name to *Caretta*. On general grounds of fitness, this name would be acceptable, as it is derived from the vernacular name of the tortoise-shell, the *caret* of the French, and the species which produces this valuable article is the type of the genus. It might also be said, that, as Merrem applied the name of *Caretta* to all marine Turtles in the same sense as Brongniart had applied to them that of *Chelonia*, when it became necessary, in the progress of science, to subdivide the sea Turtles into sev-

eral genera, the name of *Caretta* ought to have been preserved for one of the new genera, as well as that of *Chelonia*. But, the naturalist who first noticed these generic differences had the unquestionable right to use his own discretion in adopting any well-framed name he chose for these genera; and as Fitzinger selected that of *Eretmochelys* for the Turtle which produces the tortoise-shell, that name must now be retained, and no one has a right to change it hereafter. Duméril and Bibron consider this genus merely as a sub-genus of their *Chelonia*, which includes all the marine Turtles, except *Sphargis*.