

and blunt for some distance in front of the angle. The lower surface of this jaw is turned down, at its front end, below its level at the sides. The furrow corresponding to the ridge of the upper jaw is broad at the symphysis; it is deep below the outer edge, and short, reaching back to where the alveolar edge becomes blunt; it narrows from the symphysis backward to a point, and at its inner edge rises to a small ridge. The surface within the ridge descends steeply and in one slope to the attachment of the tongue. While the mouth closes, the cutting edges approach each other first at the front and hind ends. The cutting edges are sharp, but not serrated, and there are no teeth or furrows on any part of the horny surface of the mouth. The horny bill is stiff, and projects unusually far beyond the bone of the jaw.

The arrangement of the scales on the upper surface of the head is very similar to that of *Chelonia*, excepting that the row of seven scales, which encircles the large middle scale, is more on the top of the head, and extends less down on its sides. Two pairs of scales reach from this row forward to the nose. The field of scales on the cheek, like the cheek itself, is small, consisting in number of from seven to ten scales.

The body is long, narrow, and oval. The marginal rim descends steep and wide over the shoulders, and flares out wide only about the hind end of the body. The scales on the shield are thick and stiff, forming hard plates (the tortoise-shell of commerce); they are pointed behind, and imbricated, each one overlapping the one next behind. The large scales on the inner edge of the front limbs are narrower at their outer than at their inner ends, a character which seems to be connected with the manner of folding back the limbs. The tortoise-shell is obtained from the species of this genus.

Modern herpetologists admit, in this genus, only one single species,<sup>1</sup> which is believed to be common to the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans. Having had ample opportunities of comparing specimens from the West Indies with a series of young and adults from the South Seas, preserved in the museum of the Essex Institute in Salem, I have satisfied myself that the shell Turtles of the Pacific Ocean differ specifically from those of the Atlantic. Specimens from the West Indies having first been described under the name of *Testudo imbricata*, under which both are now confounded, this specific name unquestionably belongs to the Atlantic species.

*ERETMOCHELYS IMBRICATA*, Fitz.<sup>2</sup> This species is common in the West Indies, and

<sup>1</sup> Though synonymous with the following species, *Chelonia Pseudo-Caretta* of Lesson is generally considered as a nominal species, whilst Kuhl's *Chelonia multiscutata* is unquestionably a monstrosity.

<sup>2</sup> This species is more generally known under the names of *Testudo imbricata*, *Chelonia imbricata*, *Caretta imbricata*. See, for references, Dr. Holbrook's *N. Am. Herp.*, and Dum. and Bibr. *Erpét. génér.*