

mouth with a sharp bill, and with two long surfaces under the nose, which are brought close together when the mouth is shut. The food found in the stomach of a specimen of *Amyda mutica*, examined in a fresh state, consisted of larvæ of Neuropterous insects.

The type of the genus *Amyda* is LeSueur's *Trionyx muticus*. It is thus far the only species known to belong to this genus, unless *Trionyx euphraticus*, *Geoffr.*, be generically identical with it, which I have no means of ascertaining.

AMYDA MUTICA, *Fitz.* The description of this species by LeSueur is the fullest and most accurate.¹ He has distinctly pointed out its most prominent specific peculiarities: the depression along the middle line of the back, instead of an obtuse keel, the total absence of spines along the anterior margin of the carapace and of tubercles upon the back, and the peculiar coloration of the lower surface, which is whitish, without spots or mottled marks, as occur under the neck and upon the lower surface of the feet of *Tr. spinifer*, with which it has often been confounded. LeSueur also mentions the long, narrow, and pointed jaws, which constitute one of its generic peculiarities. The form of the nostrils, first noticed by Dr. Holbrook, is also generic.

I have seen more than twenty specimens of both sexes, in every stage of growth. The males have always a longer tail than the females, extending beyond the margin of the disc, while it is concealed under it, in the other sex. The young, (Pl. 6, fig. 6 and 7,) at the time of hatching, and for some time afterwards, are entirely white below, even under the neck and upon the lower surface of the feet; the latter, however, becomes bluish gray with age, but it is never spotted or mottled. Upon the sides of the head, from the eyes backwards, runs a narrow white band bordered by black lines, which is merged behind in the white surface of the lower side of the neck, but extends forwards across the eye to the tip of the proboscis. This band disappears more or less in old specimens. In very young specimens, the back has slight black spots upon an olive colored ground, and exhibits, along the hind margin and the sides of the carapace, a broad yellowish band circumscribed by a black line. With advancing age the marginal band disappears, and the dark marks upon the back spread until they vanish entirely, and the ground becomes itself darker and more gray-

¹ In *Mém. Mus. Hist. Nat. Paris*, 1827, vol. 15, p. 263, Pl. 7. It has since been described by Major LeConte, (*Lyc. Nat. Hist. New York*, vol. 3, p. 95.) and by Dr. Holbrook, (*N. Amer. Herp.* vol. 2, p. 19, Pl. 2.) J. E. Gray considers it and *Tr. ferox* as being the only genuine representatives of the genus *Trionyx*, as he would limit it. DeKay (*Zool. of New*

York, vol. 3, p. 7, Pl. 6, fig. 11) represents it as the young of *Tr. ferox*, though he considered it at first as a distinct species, for which he had proposed the name of *Tr. ocellatus*. His figure leaves no doubt that he had a specimen of *Tr. muticus* before him. Wiegler refers it to his genus *Aspidonectes*, and Duméril and Bibron to their genus *Gymnopus*.