

ish brown. The largest specimen I have seen measured twelve inches from the front to the hind margin of the carapace, and ten inches across.

This species, which is the smallest of the North American Trionychidæ, extends from the States of New York and Pennsylvania westwardly to the tributaries of the Missouri, and the upper and middle Mississippi. I have never seen specimens from the lower course of the Mississippi, nor from the Southern and South-eastern States. It is common in Lakes Erie and Ontario, (Maj. LeConte;) in Ohio, (Dr. Kirkland,) and in Indiana, (LeSueur.) Through the kindness of Prof. Rich. Owen I have obtained specimens from the very locality from which LeSueur described his. Dr. J. Rauch has sent me specimens from Iowa, Mr. G. Stolley from the Osage River in Missouri, and Prof. Sp. Baird from the Alleghany River in Pennsylvania. The eggs are smaller than those of the other species of this family which I know. They are represented (Pl. 7, fig. 21) from specimens sent me by Dr. J. Rauch of Burlington, Iowa, and by Mr. Franklin Hill of Delphi, Indiana.

II. PLATYPELTIS, Fitz.

The head is short, broad, and high; its front part is turned down steeply, and makes a sharp angle with the brain-box. The sides of this part approach each other gradually to the base of the proboscis, which is straight. The nostrils are terminal, and nearer together than in *Amyda*, crescent shaped in form and vertical in position; they are subdivided by a horizontal ridge, projecting on each side of the median partition, which is wider than in *Aspidonectes*. The outer surface of the maxillaries slants far outward from the suture with the prefrontals down to the alveolar edge, thus making the mouth very broad. The alveolar edge is blunt, except at the front end; it is turned down but little at the sides, and flares out so much there that in the adult there is but little distinction between the vertical and horizontal alveolar surfaces, and both together form one very broad surface adapted to crushing; but, at the front end, this surface is narrow and nearly vertical. There is here, as in *Amyda* and *Aspidonectes*, a large opening in the skull between the intermaxillaries and the end of the vomer. The lower jaw, like the upper, has a very broad alveolar surface, which also continues broad back to the hind end of the maxillaries, projecting near that end far over both the outer and inner surfaces of the jaw below, and reaching inward farther even than its lower edge. This surface is nearly flat at the symphysis, but it has a deep depression near the hind end. In this genus, then, the mouth is large, but short; the jaws are strong, and the alveolar surfaces broad and blunt, and well fitted to crush. The shells of a *Paludina* and fragments of *Anodontas*