

Alleghany River, in Western Pennsylvania, from Professor Baird. It was not known in the State of New York before the completion of the Erie Canal; but since, it has been caught in the Mohawk and in the Hudson Rivers, near Albany (DeKay). Professor Rich. Owen has sent me some from the Wabash, near New Harmony, in which place LeSueur first observed this species. It is abundant in Lakes Ontario and Erie, in the streams that flow into these lakes, (Say and LeConte,) and in all the streams of Ohio (Kirtland). I am indebted for specimens from the Ohio to Mr. Jos. Clarke, of Cincinnati; from Northern Indiana to Mr. Franklin Hill, of Delphi; from Michigan, to Dr. A. Sager and Professor Alex. Winchell, of Ann-Arbor; from Illinois, to Mr. J. H. McChesney; from Iowa, to Dr. J. Rauch; from the Osage River, in Missouri, to Mr. G. Stolley; and from Fort Union, on the Upper Missouri, to the Smithsonian Institution. It is frequently found in the smaller streams that discharge into the Missouri (Say). The occurrence of this species so far north contrasts strangely with the opinion, prevailing among herpetologists, that the representatives of this family are inhabitants of the large rivers of the tropics.¹

ASPIDONECTES ASPER, *Ag.* I have for a long time known only an imperfect skeleton of this species, belonging to the Smithsonian Institution, and prepared from a specimen forwarded by Professor B. L. C. Wailes, of Washington, Mississippi. Afterwards I obtained, through the agency of Dr. L. Harper, a stuffed specimen belonging to the Museum of the University of Oxford,² that had been collected during the geological survey of Mississippi, under the superintendence of Professor Wailes. Lately I have received a number of living specimens, through the kindness of Mr. Winthrop Sargent of Natchez, which confirm the opinion I had formed, from the scanty materials at first at my command, that there exists, in the South-Western States, a distinct species of *Aspidonectes*, which might easily be mistaken for *Asp. spinifer*, and even be confounded with *Platypeltis ferox*.³

Aspidonectes asper is at once distinguished from all the other species of this

¹ *Comp. Dum. and Bibr. Erpét génér. Vol. 2, p. 449.* where it is stated that all the species, the origin of which is known, inhabit the rivers and lakes of the warmest parts of the globe, among which, it is true, they mention the Ohio.

² Upon application of Dr. Harper, the trustees of the University at Oxford very liberally consented to forward to me for examination all the specimens of Testudinata collected during the geological survey of the State of Mississippi. These specimens have been

of very great importance to me in fixing the geographical range of many species, which before were not known to occur in the lower course of the Mississippi.

³ I have no doubt that such a confusion generally prevails, as no zoölogist has thus far alluded to the presence of two representatives of this family in the Southern States, and the very specimen of the Museum of Oxford, alluded to above, bears the name of *Trionyx ferox*.