

neck is shorter than in *Chelydra*; this is owing to the size of the head; for such a head on a long neck would be cumbersome. The three ridges along the carapace are largely developed, and neither of them vanishes with age. The marginal rim is thick, projecting far out beyond the carapace at the sides; and at the front end it is deeply arched backwards, which is necessary to allow free motion to the large head. One scale covers the whole nose, above the horny sheath of the jaw. There is a characteristic row of scales, three in number, situated between the costal and marginal rows, over the union of the carapace and plastron, the addition of which is perhaps due to the great thickness of the marginal rim at that place, and two scales on each of the bridges of the plastron, within the row of three which crosses the ends. The whole neck and chin are covered with horny papillæ of various sizes and forms.

GYPOCHELYS LACERTINA, Ag.¹ Sufficient references to this species have already been given (p. 250). Its geographical range extends from western Georgia and north-western Florida, through Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, to Texas. But I do not know exactly how far north it may be found in the valley of the Mississippi. I have lately received another young specimen from the neighborhood of New Orleans, through the kindness of Dr. Benedict, and compared other specimens from Mississippi, sent by Professor Wailes to the Museum of the Essex Institute in Salem, and also one belonging to the Museum of Oxford, Mississippi. Mr. Robert H. Gardiner has sent me one from south-western Georgia. They all agree in their generic and specific characters, and fully sustain the first observations of Dr. Holbrook.² According to Professor Wailes, it measures sometimes three feet in its greatest diameter. I insert below some interesting remarks respecting its habits, which have lately been communicated to me by Rev. Edw. Fontaine, of Austin, in Texas, who first observed it in that State.

"I often have encounters with them when fishing for bass in our prairie rivulets. I saw one lying dead on the margin of a lake in Panola County,

¹ As this species is unquestionably the *Chelydra lacertina* of Schweigger, (*Prodr.*, q. n.) the specific name of *Gyp. Temminckii*, proposed by Troost and Dr. Holbrook, and adopted, p. 248, must give way to the older one, introduced by Schweigger. I am well aware that Duméril and Bibron distinctly state (*Erp. gén.* vol. 2, p. 354) that *Chelydra lacertina*, *Schw.*, is only founded upon an overgrown specimen of *Chelydra serpentina*; but these very specific names show that Schweigger not only knew the two species of *Chelydroids* which inhabit the United

States, but also perceived the differences in the scales under the tail, which distinguish them, and upon which I have insisted, (p. 412.) as generic characters; and that he was aware how these peculiarities compare with the scales of *Serpents* and *Lacertians*.

² *North American Herpetology*, vol. 1, p. 147, pl. 24. Dr. Holbrook describes it under the name of *Chelonura Temminckii*; Duméril, *Cat. Rep. of the Jardin des Plantes*, calls it *Emysaurus Temminckii*, adding, that he had already distinguished it in his manuscript, as *E. lacertina*. Compare, however, note 1.