

than in *Gypochelys*, and almost disappear late in life. The marginal rim projects only slightly at the sides beyond the carapace; its front end is much less arched backward than in *Gypochelys*. There are a pair of scales on the nose, above the horny sheath of the jaw. There is no row of scales between the marginal and costal rows. The scales on the plastron are less numerous than in *Gypochelys*; one large one covers the whole bridge inside of the row of three which curves its outer edge. There are only two papillæ under the chin.

CHELYDRA SERPENTINA, *Schw.*¹ This is the well known Snapping Turtle of the United States, one of the most widely distributed species of this continent. It is found from Canada and Maine to Florida, and westward to the Missouri and to Louisiana. I have seen specimens from Ohio, from Indiana, from Iowa, from Missouri, and from Tennessee, not to speak of the Eastern and Middle States, where it is everywhere common; but I still entertain some doubts as to the identity of the specimens from the Southern States.² The color varies from light to dark brown. Its growth is much more rapid during the first ten or twelve years of its life than afterwards, as may easily be ascertained by a comparison of the relative distance of the lines of growth in the centre and at the edge of the scales of adult specimens.³ It is reported, upon reliable authority, that a specimen, marked forty-five years ago, only increased one inch in that time.

The fossil species referred to the genus *Chelydra* seem to belong to two distinct genera, resembling more closely in some respects the genera *Chelydra* and *Gypochelys*, while in other respects they are more closely allied to *Platysternum*, judging from the greater width of the anterior end of the sternum in *Chelydra Murchisoni*, and of the posterior end in *Ch. Dechenii*.⁴

¹ Although Linnæus mentions Algiers and China as the home of his *Testudo serpentina*, there can be no doubt that it is our species, and that he was mistaken as to its origin, the genus *Chelydra* being exclusively North American. Pennant mentions it as *Testudo serrata*, and Shaw as *Testudo longicauda*. The names under which it is most frequently quoted are *Chelydra serpentina*, *Chelonura serpentina*, and *Emysaurus serpentinus*.

² Specimens from Mobile and New Orleans show a wider emargination between the middle pair of the marginal plates of the hind margin than northern ones, and the keels of the back are less prominent. There are some other differences in the scales upon the bridge between the plastron and the shield; but I have not seen a sufficient number of specimens to be

positive that all those found at the south agree in this respect, and constitute a distinct species. At all events, however, it is a remarkable variety, which does not occur at the north, and which I shall label *Chelydra emarginata* in my collection, until I have better opportunities of ascertaining the value of the differences thus far noticed.

³ Judging from the lines of growth, specimens six and a half inches long and five and a half inches wide are only twelve years old; while others, which measure not more than twelve inches in length and nine and a quarter in width, are at least thirty-eight years old.

⁴ *Chelydra Murchisonii*, *Bell*, (Trans. Geol. Soc. Lond., 2d ser., vol. 4, p. 279, pl. 24; H. von Meyer, zur Fauna der Vorwelt, p. 12, pl. 11 and 12, and Pa-