

pointed in front. Hind foot, plantigrade. The plastron is attached and hinged essentially as in *Emys*. It is probable that the difference between the manner in which the plastron is moved in the *Cinosternoidæ* and in the *Emydoidæ* with movable sternum depends on family characters, and that a single hinge could not exist in the *Cinosternoidæ*, nor a double one in the *Emydoid*.

Though I have examined many hundred specimens of this genus, I do not yet feel justified in expressing a decided opinion respecting the value of the differences which I have noticed among them, as they were mostly adults. The differences noticed may indicate different species; but they may also mark only varieties. There is, however, a remarkable circumstance connected with the specimens that came under my observation: their variations are limited to particular regions of the country. A satisfactory investigation of this genus would therefore involve the whole question of local and climatic varieties.

CISTUDO VIRGINEA, Ag.¹ The north-eastern type of the genus has the most extensive range. It is found in New England, and westward as far as Michigan, and southward as far as the Carolinas. I have received three-toed specimens from North Carolina, through Mr. W. C. Kerr, which agreed in every other respect with those of New England. The young are represented Pl. 4, fig. 17-19; the eggs, Pl. 7, fig. 10-14.

CISTUDO TRIUNGUIS, Ag.² The western and south-western type is remarkable for having, almost universally, only three toes to the hind feet. Specimens from Louisiana and Mississippi are particularly small, and of a pale yellowish color, with a few spots. The eggs are represented Pl. 7, fig. 15 and 16. I have received a very large number of specimens from Dr. Benedict and Mr. T. C. Copes, of New Orleans, all of which agree in their small size and pale color. Had I not noticed a few larger specimens from the Osage River and from Georgia, I should not hesitate to consider them as a distinct species.

CISTUDO ORNATA, Ag.³ The north-western type is round, broad, and flat, without keel, even when young, (Pl. III., fig. 12 and 13,) while the young of *Cistudo virginea* are always strongly keeled. I have received specimens from the Upper Missouri through the Smithsonian Institution, and from Iowa through Dr. J. Rauch.

CISTUDO MAJOR, Ag. The southern and south-eastern type grows to a very large size, and is more oblong than the others. I have received specimens from Mobile through Dr. Nott, and from Florida through Mr. Fr. W. Putnam.

¹ This is the *Cistudo carolina* of most authors, Grew's *Testudo virginea*. Gray's *Emys kinosternoides* is the young.

² Gray has described a three-toed *Cistudo* from Mexico as a distinct genus, under the name of

Onychotrin Mexicana. Proc. Zool. Soc. of London, 1849. The outer toe of the hind foot fades away so gradually that the genus *Onychotrin* cannot stand.

³ Of all the *Cistudo* which I have seen, this is most likely to be a distinct species.