

of the ribs, and their angular plates, and in the characters of the scales, or horny integument with which the carapace is covered; and with corresponding variations in the head, and in the locomotive extremities, in the numerous species and genera of the Chelonian reptiles, according to their adaptation to a terrestrial, fluviatile, or marine existence.

The animals of this order are arranged in three principal groups, viz. the marine, or Turtles (*Chelonia*); the fluviatile, or fresh-water Tortoises (*Emydes*); and the terrestrial, or Tortoises (*Testudinata*). The *Chelonia*, properly so called, are all marine, and generally feed upon vegetables; the *Emydes* are fresh-water Chelonians, which approach more nearly to the terrestrial than to the marine species; they are carnivorous, feeding on frogs, fishes, and other small animals. A division of the Emydians, called *Trionyces*, are destitute of a horny external integument, having no plates on the buckler or any other part of the body; but the osseous carapace is invested with a strong, tough skin, which equally covers the dorsum and sternum, to which it firmly adheres; the dermal surface of the bones in these Tortoises being always either granulated or covered with punctuations and depressions. The buckler of the *Trionyces* is of a depressed form, with a soft flattened margin, a structure enabling the animals to conceal themselves in the mud at the bottom of rivers; their food principally consists of