

viduals, as indicating an intermediate sex, I have to observe, as corroborative of the idea, that Mr. Haworth, in his remarks upon a Paper on *Bledius tricornis* by Mr. Burrell in the Entomological Transactions, mentions a variety of the male with short horns. Mr. Curtis also mentions a similar variety in *Bl. Stephensii*. Mr. Burrell, indeed, in the paper above alluded to, suggests that the specimens of the short-horned variety discovered by himself may be neuters, and Mr. Haworth also expresses an opinion coinciding with that of Mr. Burrell, and even conceives that such neuters are much more frequent than hitherto imagined. The use of the horns themselves is also noticed by Mr. Haworth in the same paper.

The sense of the first paragraph of p. 67, is confused by the word "perfect" having been inserted in the 3d line, instead of "short horned."

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ART. LVI. *On Hydraspis, a new Genus of Freshwater Tortoises, of the family Emydidæ.* By THOMAS BELL, Esq., F.R.S., L.S., G.S., &c.

ON the most casual review of the fresh-water Tortoises, constituting the family EMYDIDÆ, it is impossible not to perceive that they consist of several groups of importance, differing in many essential points, both with regard to structure and habits. Their subdivision consequently into the genera *Terrapene* of Merrem, *Kinosternon* of Spix, *Emys* of Brongniart, *Chelonura* of Fleming, *Chelys* of Dumeril, with the addition of *Sternotherus*, defined in a former paper of mine in this Journal, is perfectly consistent with nature, and has been sanctioned by the adoption of Zoologists. A further investigation of the species constituting the genus *Emys* as it now stands, has shewn me another group, which possesses so many important characters, distinguishing it from all others, as in my opinion to require a separate generic name. I had long ago believed that *Testudo*

*longicollis* might prove to be the type of a genus, and subsequent observations upon several other species have convinced me that the conjecture was correct. The characters which appear to me to call for this distinction, are the following. The head and body are much depressed; the nose projecting, narrow, and the nostrils near together; the neck is very long and extensible; the feet flat, and very perfectly palmated. The first vertebral scutum is exceedingly broad anteriorly, constituting a very remarkable peculiarity, and there are invariably thirteen sternal plates, a number which does not exist in any other species of the digitated families, excepting *Sternotherus Leachianus*, and the two species of *Chelys*. It is on the union of all these characters in a greater or less degree in the whole of the group, that I have thought it necessary to found the proposed genus, which I shall designate by the name of HYDRASPIS.

It is evident that in some of the circumstances now enumerated, there is a marked approach to the family *Trionychida*, particularly in the great length and extensibility of the neck, the general flatness of the body, the prominence of the nose, and the breadth of the web connecting the toes. In other minor respects, however, as the broad and entire sternum for instance, the two groups are as far removed as possible from each other.

I am not acquainted with any undescribed species, but the following are those of former authors of which this genus is at present constituted: viz. *Testudo longicollis*, which I consider the type; *T. galeata* of Schoepff, (the synonymes of which include *T. scabra* of Retz, *T. subrufa* of authors, *T. olivacea* of Schweiger, and some others); *T. planiceps*, Schoepff, (the same with *Emys canaliculata* of Spix); and probably the whole of the following from the magnificent work of Spix on the *Reptilia* of Brazil; *Emys Amazonica*, *E. viridis*, *E. depressa*, *E. macrocephala*, *E. Tracaxu*, *E. rufipes*. Of these some appear to be more nearly allied to the typical form than others, and it is possible that a better acquaintance with them may lead to a different arrangement from that now suggested; I have at all events thought it necessary to hesitate before I decided on the

admission of all the species quoted from Spix, until I should have an opportunity of examining the animals for myself, especially as his plates are in many cases very doubtful and confused.

Fam. EMYDIDÆ.

Genus. HYDRASPIS.

*Caput* depressum, *rostrum* subacutum; *collum* elongatum, extensile; *sternum* latum immobile; *scutum primum vertebrale* anticè latissimum; *scuta sterni* xiii.

ART. LVII. Characters of the order, families, and genera of the Testudinata. By THOMAS BELL, Esq., F.R.S., L.S., G.S., &c.

Classis. REPTILIA.

Ordo. TESTUDINATA.

*Cor* auriculis binis, *ventriculo* unico biloculari. *Pulmones* separati, *cellulosi*, *abdomini* intrantes. *Os* edentulum, *rostratum*; *maxilla inferior* intra *superiorem* (pyxidi instar) se claudens. *Lingua* lata. *Ventriculus* simplex. *Cæcum* nullum. *Vesica urinaria* maxima. *Membrana tympani* cute communi tecta; *cochlea* nulla. *Penis* simplex *canaliculatus*. *Vagina* simplex. *Ova* plurima *testâ durâ* induta. *Vertebræ colli* 8—9, *mobiles*. *Vertebræ dorsi* 8, quæ cum *costis* atque *sterno* in *testam fornicatam* consolidatæ. *Scapulæ*, *claviculæ*, et *pelvis*, intra *testam osseam* inclusæ. *Pedes* 4. *Cutis* *dorsi sternique* *cornea* vel *coriacea*, *testæ osseæ* agglutinata.

A. Digitata.

Familia 1. TESTUDINIDÆ.

Terrestres. Herbivoræ. *Caput* altum, obtusum; *Maxillæ* *corneæ*, *serratæ*. *Pedes* *squamosi*, *clavati*; *digiti* *indistincti*;