

Kinosternon murrayi, a New Muskturtle of the *hirtipes*
Group from Texas

By BRYAN GLASS AND NORMAN HARTWEG

AMONG the herpetological specimens taken in southwestern Texas by members of the expedition of the Fish and Game Department, Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas in the summer of 1941 there is a single specimen of an undescribed form of *Kinosternon*. Additional specimens of this undescribed population are a poorly preserved adult male in the United States National Museum, and an adult male and a dried shell recently collected by a University of Michigan expedition in June, 1950. We take pleasure in naming this turtle after Dr. Leo T. Murray.

Kinosternon murrayi, sp. nov.

HOLOTYPE.—TCWC No. 650, young male from the Harper Ranch, 37 miles south of Marfa, Presidio County, Texas; collected August 12, 1941, by S. H. Wheeler.

PARATYPES.—USNM No. 15860, adult male from Marfa, Presidio County, Texas; collected by Vernon Bailey. UMMZ Nos. 101294, adult male, and S-1083, dried shell of adult male, paratopotypes¹; collected June 12, 1950, by Herndon G. Dowling.

DIAGNOSIS.—A *Kinosternon* of the *hirtipes* group characterized by narrow anterior and posterior plastral lobes, long interpectoral and interfemoral seams, and furcate headshield. Length of interpectoral seam as well as color pattern of head distinguish *K. murrayi* from *K. sonoriense* and *K. flavescens*, the other two members of the genus in southwestern United States. Distinguished from *K. hirtipes*, to which it is closely related, by greater interpectoral and interfemoral seam lengths, and lesser interhumeral seam length. (Figure 1.)

DESCRIPTION.—Head nearly flat above; headshield furcate; upper jaw slightly hooked. Carapace moderately elevated, more or less flattened in vertebral region, sloping gently anteriorly, rather abruptly posteriorly; keel slight but distinct on the whole vertebral series in the holotype, absent except on 4th or 4th and 5th in the three paratypes; vertebrae moderately broad, first widely in contact with second marginals; nuchal large; marginals narrow except for the 10th which is much elevated above both the 9th and the supra-caudals. Plastron short and narrow, much narrower than opening of shell, sharply rounded in front in holotype and UMMZ No. 101294, indented in other two specimens (horny shields missing); posterior lobe deeply excised; gular large; interhumeral seam length variable, but rather short; interpectoral seam long, 85–140 percent of interhumeral; interfemoral seam long, 93–133 percent of interhumeral; bridge of medium length, axillary and inguinal in contact.

Web on outer edge of forearm moderately developed; postfemoral and posttibial tuberculated scales prominently developed.

¹ Harper Ranch was known as D. O. Atkinson Ranch at the time of collection of the two paratopotypes.

Scutes of carapace brown to greenish brown, with black posterior margins; plastron dark brown in areas of recent growth, light horn in older areas. Head and neck dark brown to black, with fine light reticulations above, coarser ones on sides; an ill-defined light line extends from angle of jaw to tympanic region; jaws light gray, finely streaked with dark brown or black; under sur-

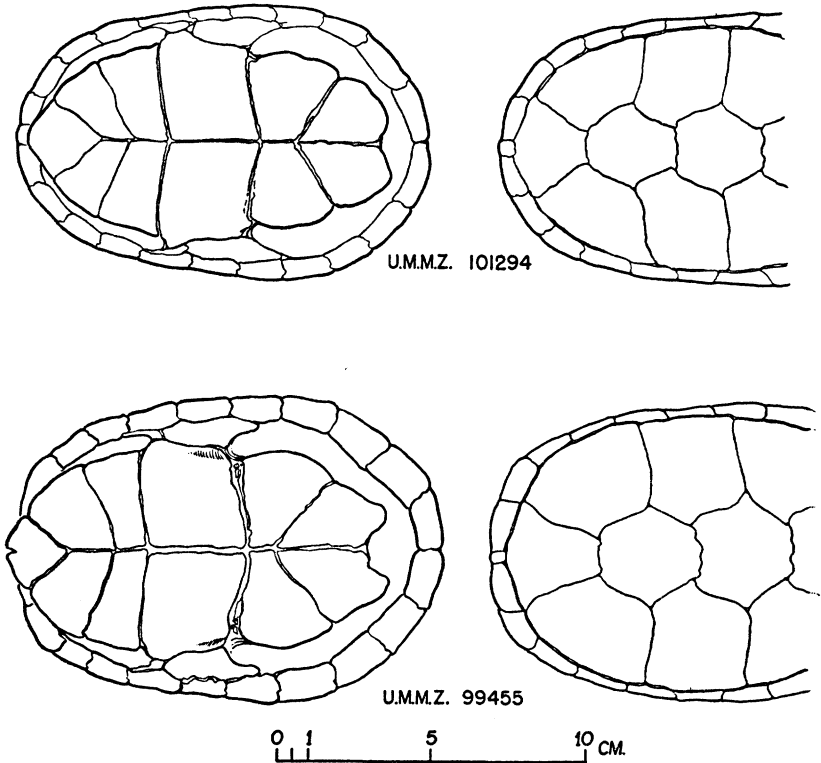


Fig. 1. Upper: Shell of *Kinosternon murrayi*, sp. nov., paratype, UMMZ No. 101294. Lower: *Kinosternon hirtipes*, UMMZ No. 99455.

face or chin and neck light gray, with scattered black specks. Limbs and tail dark gray.

Measurements pertinent to the diagnosis and description are as follows:

Catalogue number	Carapace length mm.	Plastron length mm.	Ant. lobe width mm.	Post. lobe width mm.	Bridge length mm.	Interpect. Interhum. seam percent	Interfem. Interhum. seam percent
TCWC 650	107.0	90.0	45.5	43.4	17.4	85	93
UMMZ 101294	130.0	112.0	57.7	53.2	24.3	129	133
USNM 15860	145.7	117.0	58.6	52.7	24.4	140	133
UMMZ S-1083	—	118.5	57.3	56.3	22.6	94	101

Measurements, arranged in the above order, of 5 male specimens of *Kinosternon hirtipes* from the Valley of México, are as follows:

Catalogue number	Carapace length	Plastron length	Ant. lobe	Post. lobe	Bridge length	Ratio 1	Ratio 2
UMMZ 80357	116.4	96.5	50.7	47.7	17.0	45	51
UMMZ 99448	120.0	100.5	49.7	48.2	17.0	55	65
UMMZ 99449	127.4	112.0	55.7	53.7	22.5	74	66
UMMZ 99455	138.6	120.0	61.0	60.0	23.0	76	58
UMMZ 99454	141.3	118.3	59.5	54.6	22.0	50	58

A discussion of relationships within the *hirtipes* group will appear in another paper by the junior author.

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A New Snake of the Genus *Tropidodipsas* from Honduras

By BENJAMIN SHREVE

I HAVE recently been identifying material collected by Dr. A. F. Carr, Jr., in Honduras and graciously presented to the Museum of Comparative Zoology by him. In this collection I find the novelty described below, which I take pleasure in naming,

Tropidodipsas carri, sp. nov.

TYPE.—MCZ No. 49797, a male, from Escuela Agricola Panamericana, near Tegucigalpa, Honduras, collected by A. F. Carr, Jr., Aug. 16, 1945.

DIAGNOSIS.—Possibly most closely related to *Tropidodipsas fischeri* Boulenger, from which it differs in number of scale rows, in having no keeled scales on the dorsum, a single postocular, a single pair of chin shields, in numbers of temporals and in coloration.

DESCRIPTION.—Eye moderate; rostral broader than deep, just visible from above; internasals about two-fifths the length of the prefrontals; frontal about one and a third times as long as broad, as long as its distance from the end of the snout, shorter than the parietals; loreal somewhat less than three times as long as deep; no preocular, one postocular; temporals 0 + 1 (parietal in contact with fifth labial); six upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye, fifth largest; six lower labials on the left, seven on the right; four lower labials on the left, and five on the right in contact with the single pair of chin shields; scales in 13 rows at midbody, smooth; ventrals 168; anal entire; subcaudals not known (tail incomplete). Snout to anus 343 mm.

COLORATION IN ALCOHOL.—Above, head dark brown, labials and temporal region whitish marked with dark brown; on each side of the dorsum a row of large spots, also dark brown, each spot usually extending about to the ventrals, alternating and coalescing with the row on the other side; between these spots a row of smaller ones near the edge of the ventrals which also may coalesce with the main row; area between spots whitish, marked with the same color as the spots and speckled with chocolate brown. Below, whitish marked with rather elongate dark brown spots each about as long as the width of a ventral scale and roughly forming themselves into two rows.

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