

verging towards the centre, where the ridges unite and form a single central ridge of granules to the horny tip of the tail.

This genus has all the characters of the more typical aquatic Terrapins. The feet are broad, the toes elongated and well webbed; and the alveolar edges of the jaws, according to the figure of M. A. Duméril (*l. c.* t. 15), have distinct dentated ridges, like the genera *Pseudemys* and *Batagur*. M. Duméril's figure seems to have been taken from a badly preserved stuffed specimen. There is a second specimen of this very interesting Terrapin now alive in the Zoological Gardens.

In my description of the genus I have described the axillary and inguinal plates as absent. In Mr. Salvin's specimen they are very small, but yet distinctly present, but are more developed on one side than on the other, showing that they are variable in this animal.

9. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF STAUROTYPUS (S. SALVINII) FROM GUATEMALA. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

Among the interesting series of Tortoises brought by Mr. Salvin from Haumanchal, Guatemala, and deposited in the British Museum, are two specimens of a Tortoise of the genus *Staurotypus*, but differing from the normal form of that genus in the sternum being narrowed and acute in front, like the sternum of *Chelydra*, which genus it resembles in having a crested though short tail.

I would propose to divide the genus thus:—

A. *Sternum broad and truncated in front.* STAUROTYPUS.

1. STAUROTYPUS TRIPORCATUS, Gray, Cat. Shield Rept. B. M. 47, t. 20 b.

*Hab.* Mexico (*Wiegmann*); Vera Cruz (*Sallé*).

B. *Sternum narrow, tapering, acute in front.* STAUREMYS.

This subgenus has the form of the sternum and the crested tail of *Chelydra*, with the sternal shields of *Staurotypus*.

2. STAUROTYPUS (STAUREMYS) SALVINII.

*Hab.* Haumanchal, Guatemala (*Salvin*).

Head very large, swollen, crown covered with a thin soft skin; face conical, rather produced; nose terminal; mouth inferior; beak large, dentated on the edge; chin with two beards; throat warty; skin of body and limbs granular; the fore legs have several slender, very broad, arched, band-like shields across the inner side, the middle one being the broadest; toes well developed, strong; upper surface covered with a single series of band-like shields, united to the claws by a wide, well-developed web; claws 4—5, strong, elongate, acute; tail short, conical, angular above, with a central

and a lateral series of tubercles, forming three short crests; the thorax oblong, covered with three short, continuous keels; marginal shields rather narrow, elongate; sternum cross-like, small compared with the dorsal disk, narrow, slightly rounded before, acute behind, united to the dorsal disk by a narrow lateral process; sternal plates seven, thin, four pairs and a single odd one behind; the first pair elongate, longer than broad (probably the two first pair of other *Emydæ* united); the second pair broad, produced on the side, so as to cover the greater part of the cross-like sternum; the third pair elongate, narrow; the hinder plate rhombic, rather longer than broad, acute in front and behind; the axillary and inguinal plate large, covering the space between the outer lateral edge of the second pair of shields and the marginal plates. The front lobe of the sternum is very moveable at the suture between the first and second pairs of sternal plates, in the young specimen, and has a considerable amount of mobility in the adult specimen.

The shell is brown; the head is dark olive; the temple and the side of the neck pale-marbled; underside of the limbs whitish.

Wagler represents the anal shields of *S. triporcatus* as divided. In the large specimen in the British Museum they are united into a single rhombic shield, as in *S. salvinii*.

10. ON THE GENERA OF CHELYDIDÆ AND THE CHARACTERS FURNISHED BY THE STUDY OF THEIR SKULLS. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

It has been very generally observed that the characters which separate the genera of the family *Chelydidæ* are very slight. This only arises from the genera having been hitherto characterized by some easily seen external peculiarities, which are often, as in this case, mere superficial indications of very different internal organizations.

This apparent slightness disappears when the skulls and other parts of the skeletons of the different genera are examined, as may be proved by consulting the figures of the skulls and skeletons given in the Atlas of Plates to Wagler's 'System of Amphibia,' published in 1830, which has been too much neglected by more recent writers on the subject.

Unfortunately we have the bones of only a few examples of the family in the collection of the British Museum, and there are only two skeletons in the Museum of the College of Surgeons; nor do I know of any other osteological collections which have more. These, however, and the figures of Cuvier and Wagler before referred to, are sufficient to show the outlines of an improved arrangement of the genera, and to afford more important characters for them.

I refer to my 'Catalogue of the Shield Reptiles in the British Museum' for the description of the species and more lengthened generic characters, and to the articles by me in the 'Proceedings of