

Mr. Hudson, on the other hand, states that near Buenos Ayres, where there are some woods, the *Colaptes campestris* climbs trees and bores into the bark like other Woodpeckers. He says, "it is sometimes found several miles distant from any trees. This, however, is rare, and it is on such occasions always apparently on its way to some tree in the distance. It here builds its nest in holes in trees." I have not the least doubt that Mr. Hudson's account is perfectly accurate, and that I have committed an error in stating that this species never climbs trees. But is it not possible that this bird may have somewhat different habits in different districts, and that I may not be quite so inaccurate as Mr. Hudson supposes? I cannot doubt, from what I saw in Banda Oriental, that this species there habitually frequents the open plains, and lives exclusively on the food thus obtained. Still less can I doubt the account given by Azara of its general habits of life, and of its manner of nidification. Finally, I trust that Mr. Hudson is mistaken when he says that any one acquainted with the habits of this bird might be induced to believe that I "had purposely wrested the truth in order to prove" my theory. He exonerates me from this charge; but I should be loath to think that there are many naturalists who, without any evidence, would accuse a fellow worker of telling a deliberate falsehood to prove his theory.

3. Notes on three Species of Tortoises living in the Society's Gardens. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

(Plates XL. & XLI.)

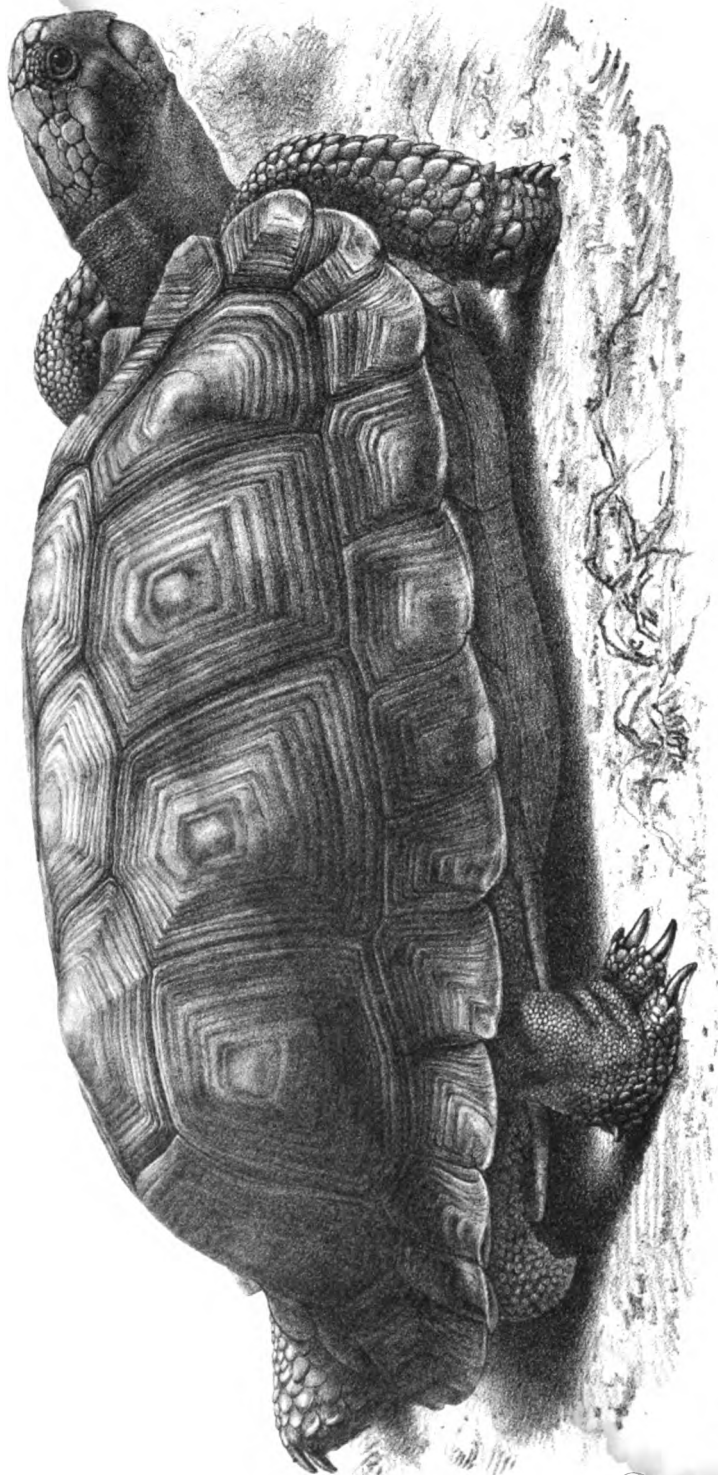
There are at present living in the Society's Gardens two species of Land-Tortoises and one of the more terrestrial Terrapins, which Mr. Bartlett assures me came direct from Chili. They are very interesting as containing at least one species of *Testudo* not as yet recorded in the catalogue. The other *Testudo* appears to be *T. elephantopus*, or the "Elephant-Tortoise of the Galapagos" of Mr. Harlan, which has hitherto been confounded with *T. indica*.

The more terrestrial Terrapin is *Rhinoclemmys annulata*, described in the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1860, p. 231, t. 29 (*Geoclemmys annulata*), as coming from Ecuador; so it must extend over a large part of South America. The animal has not been before described. It is black. The fore legs are covered with very large, convex, unequal scales; scales black, tipped with white, forming an interrupted band; toes very short, scarcely produced, covered with two or three convex band-like scales above; claws short, thick, black, white at the tip; hind feet with short, thick, black claws; scales of the soles of the feet large, convex, black, varied with white.

The others are:—

1. TESTUDO (GOPHER) CHILENSIS. (Plate XL.) B.M.

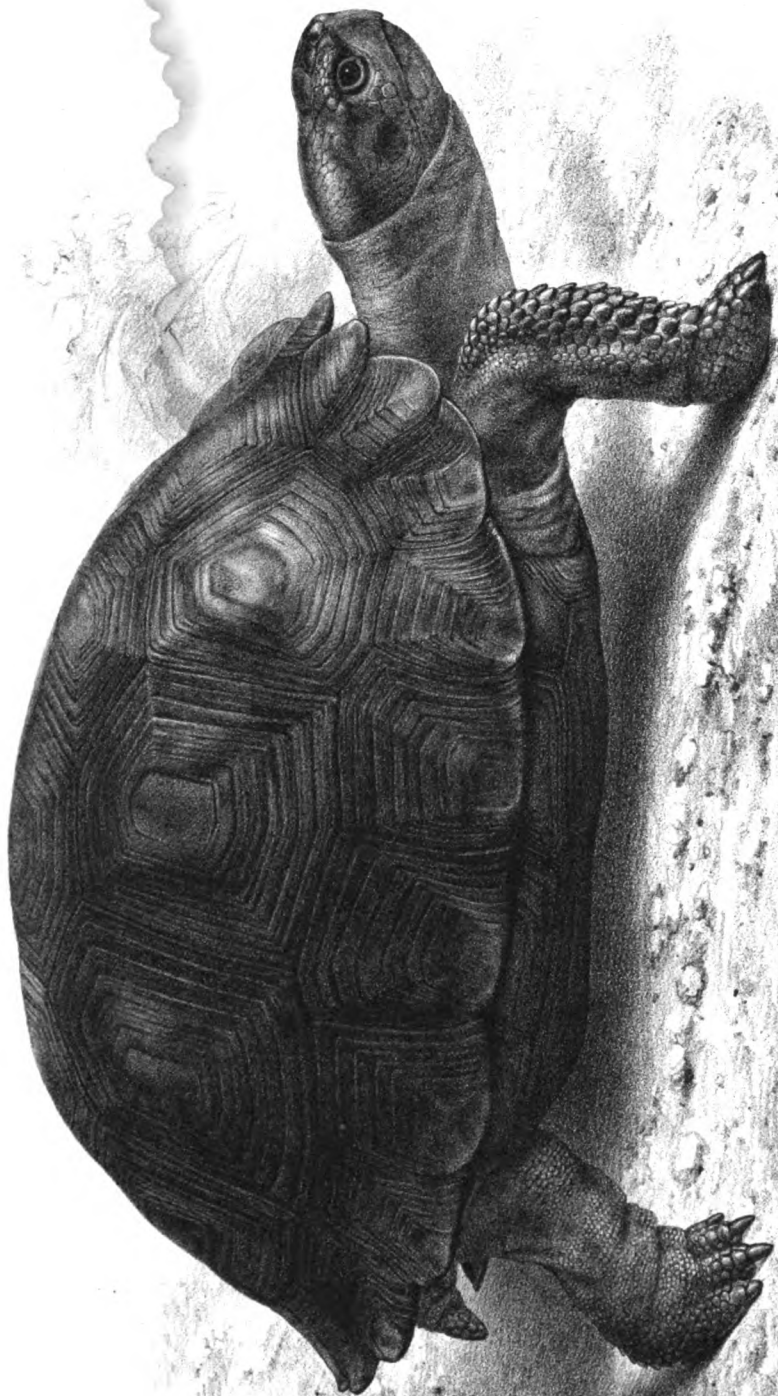
Testudo sulcata, D'Orbigny, Voy. dans l'Amér. MÉR. Rept. 6; Burmeister, Reise durch die La Plata-Staaten, ii. 521.



Mintern Bro' imp

Testudo chilensis.

G.H. Ford



G. H. Ford.

Testudo elephantopus.

Minden Bro's imp.

Testudo mauritanica, D moussy, Descr. de la Conf d ration Argentine, ii. 38.

Hab. Chili (*Weisshaupt*); N. Patagonia (*D'Orbigny*); Mendoza and the Pampas (*Burmeister*); Monte Video and Buenos Ayres (*D moussy*).

Beak keeled in front and strongly bidentate. Shell depressed, oblong; middle of the back rather flattened, dirty yellow; areola central; nuchal plate distinct; marginal plates shelving, with a very short keel; front and hinder marginal plates reflexed, making a serrated edge; head with one pair of supranasals; a hexangular (central) and two triangular frontal plates between the eyes, with some small shields between them and the supranasals, and a pair of elongated occipital plates; fore legs with a large spur at the elbow-joint, and numerous conical spines on the underside of the thighs, two of which are larger than the rest. The scales in front of the fore legs very large, unequal, convex.

This species is very like *T. sulcata* from Abyssinia in colour and general appearance; but the shell is much more depressed, and the marginal shields, which in that species are very high, with a sharp, narrow keel beneath, are in this species only inoderately high and very sharply keeled. The pectoral plates are narrow towards the centre, and gradually spread out in a triangular shape, one-third from the centre; while in *T. sulcata* these plates are narrow and linear for two-thirds of their width and then suddenly expand into a pentangular disk. In this species the last vertebral shield is the width of the caudal, and one-half of the last and one-half of the last but one of the hinder marginal shields, whereas in *T. sulcata* it is only the width of the caudal and one-half of the last hinder marginal shields.

The reception of specimens of *Testudo elephantopus* and *T. chilensis* direct from South America, and the power of comparing them with specimens of *Testudo indica* from Seychelles and other localities in the Old World, and with *Testudo sulcata* from Africa, have been very important, as by the comparison of the actual specimens of these animals together it has been distinctly proved that, instead of the same species inhabiting the Old and the New World (which was an anomaly among the Testudinata), these species, which have been regarded as the same, are perfectly distinct; indeed *Testudo sulcata* from Africa is not only distinct from *T. chilensis*, but the two species belong to two different subgenera, the one belonging to the Old and the other to the New World. The only other instance, of which I am aware, of a land-Tortoise being supposed to be common to the two continents, is a species of *Kinixys*, which was first received from Demarara and Guadeloupe, but which is now known to be an African genus; and the specimens must have been taken to Demarara by some ships from Africa; for I am informed that it is not even colonized, much less naturalized, in that country; but it is probable that some of the negroes who are fond of living animals may have taken them with them.

2. *TESTUDO ELEPHANTOPUS*. (Plate XLI.) B.M.

Testudo elephantopus, Harlan, Journ. Acad. Nat. Sc. Phil. v. 284, t. xi. (bad).

Testudo planiceps, Gray, P. Z. S. 1853, p. 12; Cat. Sh. Rept. p. 6.

Testudo californica, Férussac, Bull. Sci. Nat. 191.

Testudo nigra, Quoy & Gaim.; Frey. Voyage Zool. i. 174, pl. 40; Meyen, Nov. Acta Akad. Leop. Carol. xvii. 188, t. xiii.

Geochelone schweiggeri, Fitzinger, Wiener Sitzungsberichte, x. 403 (1853). These are probably all synonyms of this species.

Shell and animal black. Head with one pair of frontal and a square crown-shield, with a flat crown. Thorax oblong, rather depressed, black; shields irregularly concentrically grooved; areola central. The beak slightly keeled in front and slightly bidentate. The fore legs covered with rather large scales, with a spur-like tubercle on the inner side of the elbow-joint; hind legs covered with numerous small scales, with larger scales on the soles, those on the hinder margin being prominent; fifth vertebral shield as broad as the two caudal and two hinder marginal shields.

This species is exceedingly like *Testudo indica*, but is distinguished from it by the flatness of the crown and the absence of a nuchal plate. Length over the back 10 inches; width $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The sternum truncated in front; gular plates small; pectoral plates narrow; anal plates small, notched behind.

There are two young specimens and several shells of a black Tortoise in the British Museum without any nuchal plates, which have hitherto been recorded as varieties of *T. indica*. They are all without any special habitat, and therefore may be from Chili.

This species is probably the Elephant-Tortoise of the Galapagos Islands, *Testudo elephantopus*, Harlan, who described his specimen as having "twenty-three marginal scutes—that is, having eleven on each half of the shell and a single one posteriorly." I also think, from the flatness of the head in the living animal, that the skull I figured under the name of *T. planiceps* is of this species. This I formerly doubted, because there was a specimen in the Zoological Society's Gardens, said to come from the Galapagos Islands, which had a very convex forehead, like the Indian specimens; but perhaps the habitat in this case was a mistake, or might not have belonged to the example which I examined.

4. Descriptions of two new Tortoises from India, in the Collection of T. C. Jerdon, Esq. By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

Mr. T. C. Jerdon has kindly sent me for examination the Tortoises which he collected in various parts of India. The collection consists of:—1st. *Batagur thurgi*, showing that the shell of this Tortoise, which has usually been classed with *Emys*, has a contracted front and hind margin of the cavity of the shell, as well as the masticating-