

*from the Author*

# SYNOPSIS REPTILIUM;

OR

SHORT DESCRIPTIONS

OF THE

# SPECIES OF REPTILES.

BY

JOHN EDWARD GRAY,

F. Z. S., F. G. S., F. R. G. S., M. R. S. L.,

CORRESPONDING MEMBER OF THE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
AND MACLURIAN LYCEUM OF PHILADELPHIA, OF THE IMPERIAL  
SOCIETY OF THE OBSERVERS OF NATURE AT MOSCOW, AND  
HONORARY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY OF NATURAL  
HISTORY AT PARIS, &c. &c.

---

PART I.—CATAPHRACTA.

TORTOISES, CROCODILES, AND ENALIOSAURIANS.

---

LONDON :

PUBLISHED BY TREUTTTEL, WURTZ, AND Co. SOHO-SQUARE;  
G. B. SOWERBY, 156, REGENT-STREET; AND W. WOOD,  
37, TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN.

---

S<sup>w</sup> 1831.

of which he thinks *E. Geoffroyana* is a synonyma. 5. PODOCNEMUS, *H. expansa*, *H. Dumeriliana*. 6. HYDROMEDUSA, *H. Maximiliana*, which he describes "caput elongatum depressissimum, cute impresso-vibicosa tectum, ore ranino, mentum inerme, disci scuta 14, marginis 24." America.

Page 40, n. 4. *Hydraspis planiceps*.—This species is named *Emys Schoepfii*, Wiegmann, in the Berlin Cabinet.

Page 42, n. 9, add—*Hydraspis lata*, (*Demerara Hydraspis*.) "Testa suborbicularis depressa nigra capite colloque nigris aurantio maculatis."

"*Hydraspis lata*, Bell Mss." Gray, Griffith, Trans. Cuv. Anim. King. Syn. 17.

This species is taken from a note of Mr. Bell's, made from two living specimens in the gardens of the Zoological Society; since that time I have observed, in the museum of that society, a specimen which is probably one of those described, as it answers the above short description; it only differs from the *Emys erythrocephala*, Spix, in being black and more orbicular; but the latter character may depend on an accidental circumstance, as the sternum is evidently deformed. Spix does not describe the neck as red spotted, but the specimen shews little of the spots in the preserved state, as it is figured by him; it has the peculiar character of the grooved nose very distinctly marked; perhaps *Emys erythrocephala* may prove distinct from *H. expansa*, as from this specimen it appears to be a much smaller species, and *Emys Tracaxa*, Spix, may probably prove a variety of *E. Dumeriliana*.

Page 42.—Humbolt, in his Personal Narrative, (English edition,) iv. 482, has described two tortoises which appear to belong to this genus: thus,

"*Testudo arrau*. Testa ovali subconvexa ex griseo nigrescenti subtus lutea; scutellis disci 5, lateralibus 8, marginalibus 24, omnibus planis (nec mucronato conicis) pedibus luteis mento et guttere subtus biappendiculatis." He adds, there is "a deep furrow between the eyes, and the full grown animal weighs from 40 to 50 pounds."

"*Testudo Terekay*. Testa ovali atro irridi; scutellis disci 3, lateralibus 10, marginalibus 24; capite vertice maculis duabus ex rubro flavescentibus notate; subtore lutescenti appendiculo spinoso. Diameter about 14 inches.

Humboldt remarked, that from the form of the head and the appendages of the chin and throat, and the position of the vent, seem to indicate that these species belong to a new subdivision of Tortoises, as has since been done by Mr.

Bell. Humboldt gives an interesting account of their habits, but his descriptions are not sufficiently detailed, as he himself justly observes, to distinguish the species. The first may be *H. expansa*, and the second is perhaps *H. planiceps*.

Page 44. *Trionyx*.—Dr. Wagler keeps the generic name of *Trionyx* for my *Emyda*, and uses that of *Aspidonectes* for my *Trionyx*.

Page 49, after *f.* add—*g.* *Trionyx Mantelli*, Mantel, Tilgate, t. 6, f. 7, and Geol. Trans. series 2, iii. t. 16.

Page 51. *Sphargis*.—Dr. Wagler has used the name *Dermatochelys* for this genus.

Page 54.—*d.* *Chelonia Harvicensis*. Woodward Syn. Org. Rem. t. front—Mus. Norwich, Harwich.

*e.* *Chelonia antiqua*. Koenig. Icon. Sect. ii. f. 232.

Page 56, 62. *Gavialis*, *Crocodylus*, and *Alligator*.—Dr. Wagler has given to the *Gavials* the name of *Rhamphostoma*, he has retained the name of *Crocodylus* for the *Crocodyles*, and given that of *Champsia* for the *Alligators*.

Page 58. *Crocodylus Vulgaris*.—In the Francfort Museum there is a specimen of Crocodile brought from Africa, by Dr. Ruppell, which he thinks is distinct, and has named it *Croc. octophractus*. The beak is rather narrower than the common Egyptian specimens, it being  $18\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and at the notch of the canines  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , at the eyes 7, and at the occiput 10 inches wide, while in the Egyptian specimen of nearly the same size, the head was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch longer, the same width at the notch, and 1 inch wider at the eyes and at the occiput. The former has 4 nuchal and 8 cervical plates, while the latter has 6 nuchal and 6 cervical plates; it may prove to be only a variety, but the subject deserves examination.

Page 64. *Enaliosauri*.—Dr. Wagler has recently united these animals with the *Echidna* (*Tachyglossus*), the *Platypus* (*Ornithorhynchus*), and the *Ornithocephalus*, into a class, under the name of *Gryphi*, which he places between Mammalia and Birds!

Page 64. *Ichthyosaurus*.—Dr. Wagler has changed the name of this genus to *Gryphus*.

Page 66. *Plesiosaurus*.—Dr. Wagler has given to this genus the name of *Halidracon*.