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tends as far as the base of the *anal fin*; the tail is short, strong, and terminated by a forked fin. Length of specimen nearly four inches.

Mem. bran. 3.—P. 18.—V. 8.—A. 9.—D. 9.—C. 9 principal rays.

This singular fish I discovered in Pipe-Creek, Maryland, where it is called *Little Sucker*, in June, 1816. From the description of its mouth it will be seen that it is not properly a *Cyprinus*, and I have reason to conjecture that it will constitute, hereafter, a separate genus; but until the discovery of another similar species, I shall content myself with its present arrangement.

An account of an American species of Tortoise, not noticed in the systems. By C. A. Le Sueur. Read September 23, 1817.

LAKE ERIE TORTOISE,

TESTUDO GEOGRAPHICA.

Plate V.

In the summer of the year 1816, I discovered in a marsh, on the borders of Lake Erie, a Tortoise, which I have reason to believe is a nondescript. This species, which, at the first view, appears to resemble the *T. reticulata* of Bosc, and likewise the *T. serrata* of Daudin, is nevertheless distinct, as will be evident from a comparison of the figures and descriptions of the above named Tortoises, in Daudin's "Histoire Naturelle des Reptiles," with mine.





Description. *Back* elevated before, sloping to a point behind, where the shell is deeply emarginate, subcarinate; *shield* suboval, the sides pressed in; lower *shell* nearly as long as the upper; *head* triangular, *snout* obtuse; *mandibles* sharp, and without denticulations; *fore feet* five-clawed, *hind feet* four-clawed, all the feet palmate.

The *vertebral scutella* are of a hexagonal form, the posterior one wider than long; the two centre *laminae*, on each side of the disk, almost quadrangular: the *scutella* of the margin are sharp, the three anterior pieces large, somewhat oblique, those in front sinuate, falling in on the *collar scutellum*, and projecting beyond the next—from the fourth to the seventh they are narrow, and reflected, the remainder subquadrangular, oblique, flat, sinuate, and emarginate at their commissures; the lower *collar plates* furnished with small eminences: *shell* below smooth, and covered with a thin epidermis, of a bay colour; *shield* smooth, of a yellowish brown colour, mixed with chestnut, and ornamented with pale sinuous stripes, irregularly intersecting each other, these stripes approximating on the vertebral scutella; the *marginal pieces* are bordered above with black and yellow, below they are marked with semiconcentric lines of yellow, black and red: the colour of the *head*, *neck*, *tail* and *feet* is dusky, with yellow markings; the broadest part of the *shield* is at the eighth marginal plate; *anal scutella* largely emarginate. Length of the upper *shell* eight inches; width across the pectoral plates five inches—the greatest width six inches; height of the animal three inches.

The stripes or markings on the disk, presenting the appearance of a geographical map, gave rise to the trivial name which I have bestowed on this Tortoise.

A more particular description is not thought necessary, as the figure accompanying this article will convey a better idea of the animal than can be given by any verbal detail.

A new genus of Fishes, of the order Abdominales, proposed, under the name of Catostomus; and the characters of this genus, with those of its species, indicated. By C. A. Le Sueur. Read September 16, 1817.

The genus *Cyprinus* of Linne, included a considerable number of fishes, of supposed congenerous habits and conformation; and it has since his time been enlarged by important additions; hence it has become necessary to the advancement of the ichthyological student, to form new genera from this increasing family. Recently Mr. Cuvier proposed as the type of a subgenus, the *Cyprinus barbatus* of Europe; and notwithstanding this division, there still remains a species which will form the basis of another division, or of a separate genus. This was described and figured by Forster, under the name of *Cyprinus catostomus*; (Phil. Trans. vol. 63.) and is the only (certain) species of the kind recorded by La Cèpede, and Shaw. A second was described and figured by Mr. Peck, in the Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences of Boston, vol. 2, part 2, p. 55, pl. 2, fig. 4, likewise under the name of *catostomus*. Dr. Mitchill, in the Transactions of the Newyork Historical and Philosophical Society, describes two species, one under the name of *oblongus*, and the other under that of *teres*, which last he conjectured might prove the *catostomus* of