ON THE TURTLES OF THE UNITED STATES.

The Turtles, often called by the Indian name of Turtles in the United States, are a peculiar kind of harmless Reptiles, which afford a delicious food, and their shells pretty ornaments.

Linnaeus only knew eight species of Turtles from the United States; many new species were described by Schepf, Rose, Bartram, Lenier, &c. and I have myself discovered twelve new species: the total number now known is therefore increased to thirty-five.

Among these there are six species of Sea Turtles and eight Land Turtles. All the others are amphibious, living commonly in the fresh-water, but often creeping on land. I have called as follows my new species:

1. Trionyx nasica, Long-nose soft-shell Turtle.
2. Trionyx pusilla, Dwarf soft-shell Turtle.
3. Pyxys mydas, Biting tarapen.
4. Pyxys danilewsky, Biting tarapen.
5. Pyxys striata, Striped tarapen.
6. Pyxys semiradiata, Radiating tarapen.
7. Didactylus resedae, Knobby tarapen.
8. Didactylus grandis, Grumulated tarapen.
9. Didactylus hirsutus, Kentucky Box Turtle.
10. Lepidosteus bipes, Biped tarapen.

I wrote in 1819 a Monograph of these, and remarks on all the Turtles of the U. States which was sent to the American Journal of Science, but not published: it has been since sent to Europe and published there.

The most important of these Turtles is the Long-nose Great Soft Shell, so common all over the eastern streams, and which reaches sometimes the weight of fifty pounds. It had been blended with the ferocious Turtle of the Southern States (Tertudo ferrox) from which it is quite different. I was the first to ascertain that it belongs to the genus Trionyx of Copey, to describe it and draw it correctly.
species No. 10, found in Kentucky, and called the Kentucky Box Turtle. It belongs to the genus Monoclica or Turtle with lower shell shutting like a box. It has some affinity with the Carolina Box Turtle, but is yet very different.

Upper shell 6 inches long, 4 broad, and 2 high; almost elliptical, very convex deeply notched in front, slightly serrated and flattened behind, blackish with some yellow irregular spots. 13 central scales, the first and third with a flat ridge, 25 marginal scales, all the scales slightly striated in concentric waved small wrinkles. Lower shell 5 inches long, 3 broad, elliptical, bluishish entire, concave behind, shutting before with 13 smooth scales.

Head black with yellow dots, neck yellow with black dots, whitish beneath, cheeks flat, jaws horny entire; neck without scales, but flat horny warts.

Lims scaly, tail very short, forefeet yellow with black spots, 3 brown claws, toes united. Hind feet brownish above, pale beneath, four claws, toes soldered.

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