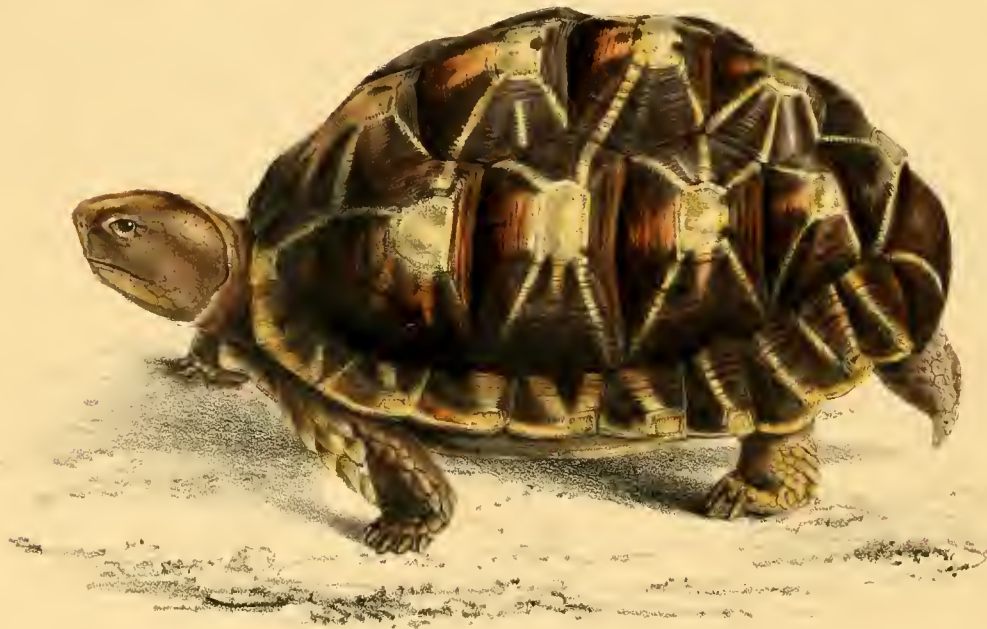
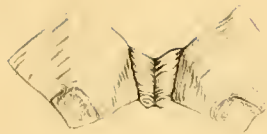


SMITH, ANDREW. 1839b. Illustrations of the Zoology of South Africa; consisting chiefly of Figures and Descriptions of the Objects of Natural History collected during an Expedition into the Interior of South Africa, in the years 1834, 1835, and 1836. Part No. 8. London: Smith, Elder and Co., 23 pp., 10 pls. [Reptilia, Plate 8].



TESTUDO VERROXII
(Reptilia Plate 8)

TESTUDO VERROXII.—SMITH.

REPTILIA.—PLATE VIII.—MALE.

T. testâ supra nigro-brunnâ, maculis, radiisque pallidè ochreo-flavis variegatis; infrâ flava, fasciâ longitudinali brunneâ inter scutas gulares et anum; capite suprâ subflavo; pedibus anterioribus anticè squamis imbricatis magnis tectis; scutis marginalibus angulum scutis costalibus formantibus.

LONGITUDO testæ 3 unc. 8 lin.

COLOUR.—The upper surface of the shell liver-brown, variegated with rays and blotches of a colour intermediate between straw and ochre-yellow; the under surface yellow, with a broad irregular liver-brown band, extending from the gular plates to the anus. The yellow blotches, which are nine in number, one towards the centre of each of the dorsal and costal plates, are very irregular in form, and include not only the whole of the *areola*, but also some portion of each plate in front of it. The rays, all of which proceed from the *areolæ*, and extend partly towards the outer, partly towards the inner sides of the plates, are four or five upon each plate, four at least generally reach to the edges of the plates near their angles; the fifth, where it exists, is commonly shorter, and situated between the two external rays of each costal plate. Each marginal plate has two yellow rays, which diverge from the *areola*, and approach or actually reach the point of junction with the costal plates, diverging as they proceed; the *areola* and outer edge of each of the plates are also yellow; the *areola* and lateral edges of the caudal plate are yellow, and from the former, two yellow rays proceed, one to each of its anterior angles. The brown band, which extends along the under surface, is very irregular or deeply broken on the edges, and in several places variegated or clouded by shades of a lighter and brighter tint. Towards the anterior edge of several of the marginal plates beneath, there is a small brown mark, more or less pointed posteriorly, and a few others of a similar form proceed inwardly from the outer margins of the pectoral and costal plates. The top of the head, and the upper and lower mandibles dusky yellow; the neck greenish-yellow, freckled with brown. The large scales covering the fore-legs anteriorly livid-yellow, the smaller ones partly brownish-black, partly greenish-yellow; hinder legs and tail greenish-yellow; claws a dark horn colour.

FORM, &c.—Shell, viewed from above, five-sided, anteriorly truncated,

TESTUDO VERROXII.

posteriorly pointed; upper aspect convex, under slightly arched towards the sides, flat in the middle; upper surface somewhat irregular, owing to the slight gibbosity of each plate; *areolæ* nearly flat; surface of plates marked with polygonal grooves; marginal plates more inclined to a horizontal direction than the costal ones, by which inclination an obtuse angle is formed by the two, and an appearance produced as if the first-named formed a sort of edging or cornice to the latter. First dorsal plate five-sided, anteriorly pointed; second, indistinctly seven-sided; third, fourth, and fifth, six-sided, the length of the sides in each plate different; first costal plate six-sided, the remainder irregularly five-sided; second marginal plate somewhat triangular, the remainder more or less quadrangular; nuchal plate short, rather broad, anteriorly emarginate, superiorly grooved along the centre, the sides, transversely ribbed. Shell below bifid anteriorly and posteriorly; gular plates sub-triangular; humeral, abdominal, and anal ones nearly square; pectoral and femoral ones quadrangular, the outer sides much wider than the inner ones. Upper mandible slightly hooked at the point, and its cutting edges finely dentated; lower with the point curved upwards. Head and neck covered with small scales; fore-legs anteriorly coated with large flat imbricate pear-shaped scales, elsewhere by irregularly shaped smaller ones; hinder legs and tail covered with small scales, and at the base of the latter, near the outer and hinder angle of each anal plate, there are two pointed horny tubercles, one behind the other. Claws short, straight, pointed, and slightly depressed.

DIMENSIONS.

	Inches.	Lines.		Inches.	Lines.	
Length of the shell above	3	8		Breadth of the shell across the abdominal		
below	3	4		plates	3	0
				Height of the shell	2	4

Nothing is known of the *female*.

The position of the marginal in relation to the costal plates furnish us with a character by which this species is at once to be distinguished from *Testudo geometrica* and *T. semiserrata*. From *Testudo tentoria*, Bell, which has also the marginal plates disposed at an angle with the costal ones, it is to be distinguished by the greater flatness of its dorsal and costal plates, the greater size and different characters of its nuchal plate, by the figure of the shell, which in *T. tentoria* is oval, by the thinness of the large scales of the fore-legs, and other less conspicuous peculiarities.

Inhabits the districts of South Africa, near the sources of the Garriep or Orange River.