

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

OF LONDON.

PART II.

1834.



PRINTED FOR THE SOCIETY,
BY RICHARD TAYLOR,
RED LION COURT, FLEET STREET.

March 11, 1834.

William Spence, Esq., in the Chair.

Specimens and drawings were exhibited of a *freshwater Tortoise*, forming part of the collection of Mr. Bell, by whom it was described as the type of a new genus, for which he proposed the name of

CYCLEMYS.

Sternum latum, testam dorsalem longitudine ferè æquans, integrum, solidum ; testæ dorsali ligamento squamato connexum.

CYCLEMYS ORBICULATA. *Cycl. testá suborbiculari, carinatá, posticè dentatá, fuscá ; scutis sterni flavescentibus, fusco radiatim lineatis.*

Long. dorsi, 8 unc. ; lat. 7 ; alt. 3.

Emys orbiculata, Bell.

Pullus. Emys Dhor, Gray, Syn. Rept., p. 20. ?

Hab. in Indiá.

Mr. Bell regards the *Tortoise* which he has thus characterized as supplying a link in the connecting series of the *land* with the *freshwater* families which has hitherto been wanting ; and as especially valuable in the natural arrangement, by the clue which it furnishes to the correct location of the Indian forms of the genus *Emys*. It is, indeed, most nearly related to *Emys spinosa*, and on a superficial observation might almost be referred to that species ; but on closer examination it is found to differ from that *Tortoise*, not only specifically, but generically also : its sternal bones are permanently separated from the dorsal ones, with which they are connected by means of a ligament alone, similar to that which performs the same office in *Terrapene*. From the *Box-Tortoises*, however, to which, in this point of its structure, it is so closely related, *Cyclemys* is altogether distinct, the whole of its *sternum* being entire, instead of having, as is invariably the case in *Terrapene*, one or more transverse divisions of the *sternum* itself, the lobes of which move as on a hinge. In *Terr. Europæa* this mobility of the *sternum* exists in each lobe in a small degree, combined with the ligamentous connexion of the sternal to the dorsal bones. In *Cyclemys* the whole *sternum* moves together, though very slightly.

The transition from the *land* to the *freshwater Tortoises* may consequently be regarded as commencing in *Terrapene* ; passing through *Terr. Europæa* to *Cyclemys orbiculata* ; and thence through the Indian forms of *Emys*, which so closely resemble the latter species, to the other forms of *Emys* : the natural series of connexion between the *Testudinidæ* and the *Emydidæ* being thus completed.

The exhibition was resumed of the new species of *Shells* contained in the collection of Mr. Cuming. Those now exhibited were accom-