

fought over. The creature must have been either sick or foolish ; for it wandered close to the shore just round the rocks at the entrance of the small harbour. A Manillaman observed it, and, getting a hammer, rushed into the water and struck it a severe blow on the head. He then hailed some Chinese to assist in getting it ashore. It measured, I was told on tolerably good authority, about 20 feet, and had no fin on its back. I saw parts of its belly, and observed that it was plaited across. Its colour was of a leaden black above, and whitish beneath. I saw one man carrying away its pectoral flippers, and two others its tail. I seized a piece of the baleen and sent it to the British Museum, but it unfortunately never reached its destination. Viewed exteriorly, it was like a high comb, the teeth (so to speak) being about 3 inches high and set about one-sixth of an inch apart, worn into bristles at their tips. Viewed from inside, you saw nothing but close-set whitish coarse hairs or bristles. Examined separately, each plate of baleen was shaped like a lob-sided triangle leaning outwards, coloured blackish blue like ordinary whalebone, and broken up at the top for about an inch, and to a less extent along the inner edge, into coarse whitish hair. The width of each plate at the base was 1.25 inch. There was a sheen of purple about the dark parts of the animal, especially on the flippers and tail.

The gunboat 'Flamer' came into Takow a day or two after the occurrence above related ; and her commander, Lieutenant Eaton, told me that he had met a large number of small Whales between our port and the Pescadores. He mistook them for a long line of breakers where the chart showed no shoal. He kept away, fearing that there might be some mistake in the chart, when some of the brutes began to throw their tails and cut antics in the water. He then saw that the danger was nothing more than a school of Whales. He said there must have been about fifty, most of them averaging 20 feet or more. He did not observe that they had any fin on the back. They spouted water.

From the nature of the baleen, our species must belong to the Balænopteriidæ ; and from the shape of its flippers and want of a conspicuous dorsal fin it must be a *Megaptera*. It is probable that it will be found to be the same species that occurs in the seas of South Japan.

10. Notes on Tortoises in the British Museum, with Descriptions of some New Species. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

(Plates XXXIII., XXXIV.)

The genus *Peltastes* in my paper on Tortoises, read in March 1869*, contains many species which are not well defined ; and therefore I

* See P. Z. S. 1869, p. 171.

have sent to the Society a synopsis of them, founded on the examination of the specimens in the Museum.

* *Dorsal and ventral shields with pale and dark rays; nuchal shield none.* India.

1. *PELTASTES STELLATUS.*

Thorax ovate, convex; dorsal shield grooved, with nine, fifteen, or more yellow rays; the lateral rays of the costal shields nearly parallel; marginal shields with four or more yellow rays; sternum black, or dark brown, with numerous nearly uniform yellow rays; nuchal plate none.

Testudo stellata, Gray, Cat. Shield Rep. p. 7.

T. elegans, Günther, Rept. British India, p. 4; P. Z. S. 1869.

T. geometrica, Hutton, Journ. As. Soc. Beng. vi. 1837, p. 689, t. 38.

T. megalopus, Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. xxii. 1865, p. 624.

Hab. Scinde (*Dr. Leith*); Ceylon; Himalaya (*Captain Boys*).

Var. 1. *actinoides*. The dorsal shields more or less convex, with fifteen or more yellow rays.

Testudo actinoides, Bell, Zool. Journ. vol. iii. p. 419, tab. xiv., Testudinata, tab.; Seba, vol. i. p. 126, t. 80. f. 3.

T. stellata, var., Gray Cat. Shield Rep. p. 7.

Var. 2. *elegans*. Shields black, with twelve rays; costal shields with eight or nine rays.

Young. Areolæ of shields brown, large, four- or five-rayed; sternal shields with a pale areola, and more or less broad black pale-rayed margin.

Testudo elegans, Schæpf, Testud. t. xxv. figs. 1, 2, 3 (copied Shaw's Zool. ii. t. vi.); Schweigger, Prodromus, p. 86.

T. stellata, Schweigger, p. 56; Gray, Syn. Rep. p. 12, t. 1. f. 1.

La géométrie, Lacépède, p. 137, pl. ix.; Seba, Thesaurus, vol. i. p. 126, t. 80. f. 8.

Hab. Ceylon and Scinde.

Var. 3. *maura*. Shell very black; costal shields with six or seven white rays. B.M.

Young. Shields black, with a yellow four-rayed cross on the costal shields. B.M.

Var. 4. *seba*. Shell young; shields yellow; areolæ large, pale, with a black spot on the upper and lower margins and a long spot on the side margin over the suture between the shields; marginal shields pale, with a very narrow dark front margin.

Seba, Thesaurus, vol. i. tab. 79. fig. 3.

Schweigger changed the name of the species because he did not believe that the Tortoise figured by Seba was the young of the same species. See 'Prodromus,' p. 86.

The specimens with many and with fewer rays are very distinct from each other; and I have not found any specimens which seem to

unite them. I was at one time inclined to regard them as species; but in the British-Museum series of the species are specimens of both varieties sent by the same persons from Ceylon, Himalaya, and Scinde, which makes it appear as if they were found intermixed together.

Schweigger did not consider Schœpf's specimen of the young animal (which is very characteristic of the fewer-rayed variety) the same as the specimen which he described; and therefore he changed the name to *stellatus*. Dr. Günther refers to Schœpf's figure without doubt, and to Schweigger's *Testudo stellata* with doubt (R. B. I. p. 4).

**** Dorsal shields with pale and dark rays; ventral shields not rayed; nuchal shield none. India.**

2. PELTASTES PLATYNOTUS. (Plate XXXIII.)

Thorax oblong, flat, with six broad uniform pale rays; areolæ uniform pale brown; marginal shields with a brown marginal areola, and two pale rays; sternum yellow, varied with black near the front or hinder margin of the shields, not rayed; underside of marginal shields with a very small marginal spot on the front edge.

Testudo platynotus, Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. xl. pp. 70-79; Theobald, Proc. Linn. Soc.

T. elegans, var., Günther, Rept. Brit. Ind. p. 5.

Hab. Burmah.

Blyth describes the flatness of the back as a peculiar character of the species; but it is only to be observed in one out of the three specimens in the British Museum; and he does not mention the plain underside, which is found in them all.

***** Dorsal shields pale- and dark-rayed; nuchal shield distinct. Africa.**

3. PELTASTES GEOMETRICUS.

Thorax oblong, dorsal and upper edge of marginal plates black; areolæ small, of costal plates submarginal; costal plates with ten or more white rays; upperside of marginal plates with three or more white rays; sternum brown-varied, of the older specimens more or less pale-rayed on the lateral margins; underside of marginal plates pale, with a black streak on the front edge; *nuchal shield elongate, slender*; the vertebral plates more or less convex, sometimes elevated, tent-shaped.

Testudo geometrica, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rep. p. 8.

Peltastes geographicus, Gray, P. Z. S. 1869.

Var. 1. Shields conical, prominent.

Testudo geometrica, var. *tentoria*, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rep. p. 8 (not Bell). B.M.

Var. 2. The margin of the sternal shields black, yellow-radiated.

Hab. South Africa, Cape of Good Hope.

4. PELTASTES TENTORIUS.

The back of the shell black, with twelve or more narrow rays; underside white, with a large brown spot occupying the middle of the whole length of the sternum; underside of anterior and lateral marginal plates white, with a black anterior ray; posterior marginal shields all white; nuchal plate very small.

Testudo tentoria, Bell, Zool. Journ. iii. p. 420, t. xxiii. & xxiv.; Testud. t.

T. geometrica nigriventris, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rep. p. 8.

Hab. South Africa.

5. PELTASTES VERREAUXII.

Shell depressed, chestnut-brown, broader and slightly dentated behind; dorsal shields with narrow black-edged radiating streaks; areola small, black, and pale-varied; sternum brown, especially in the middle of its length; sternal shields with diverging pale rays, especially on the margin; nuchal shield small.

Testudo verroxii, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rep. p. 8.

Hab. South Africa.

6. PELTASTES SEMISERRATUS.

Thorax oblong, the hinder margin more or less serrated; dorsal shields black, deeply concentrically grooved; areola pale, large, sub-central, with a pale-brown broad radiating band, which sometimes becomes very wide, and often divides into two near the margin of the plates; the central ray of the vertebral and costal plates forms an uninterrupted streak on the back and sides; the marginal shields with one or two broad pale rays; the sternum white, with a few very broad black rays; nuchal plate elongate, triangular.

Young. Hinder edge very acutely serrated.

Var. Back depressed.

Testudo semiserrata, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rep. p. 9.

Hab. South Africa.

**** *Dorsal shields horn-coloured, black-varied; nuchal plate distinct.*

7. PELTASTES ELONGATUS.

This Tortoise is very variable in colour; some older shells are nearly uniform in colour, some others are nearly black, with a more or less pale edge to the dorsal and ventral shields; others are pale whitish, with a more or less broad black ring round the areola.

Testudo elongata, Gray, P. Z. S. 1856, p. 181, t. 9, and 1861, p. 139; Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1861, p. 218; Günther, Rep. Brit. India, p. 8; Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. vol. xxii. p. 639, xxiv. pp. 7-12, xxv. p. 448, xl. p. 75; Theobald, Journ. Linn. Soc. Zool. vol. x. p. 6, 1868.

Hab. India.

8. PELTASTES? MARGINATUS.

Testudo marginata, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rep. p. 11.

Peltastes? marginatus, Gray, P. Z. S. 1869, p. 173.

Var. *melas*, or male.

Testudo marginata, Schœpf's Testudin. tab. xi. & xii.

A very fine and adult specimen in the British Museum, obtained from Mr. Parry, from Greece, is oblong, very solid, black, with more or less large white spots on the areola of each plate, and a triangular spot on the hinder upper half of the lateral marginal plates, more or less white-varied; the hinder marginal plates are very broad, expanded, and spread out behind; the underside of the marginal plates is white, those of the front and hinder margins are edged with black; the sternum is concave in the middle and shelving on the sides, more or less varied with white, white towards the hinder edge; the hinder lobe is narrow, square, notched out behind; the anal plates nearly as wide as the abdominal; the front lobe is small, semicircular; the gular plates thick, white, slightly notched in front; the humeral plates very convex, swollen; the pectoral plates rather narrow, with the front edge nearly straight, and the hinder concave on the sides. Length over the back 12 inches; caudal and the other posterior marginal plates $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide; the sternum $18\frac{1}{2}$ inches long; hinder lobe 3 inches wide. Adult male.

Testudo marginata (specimen *a*), Gray, Cat. Sh. Rep. p. 11.

Hab. Greece.

There is a second specimen, without the sternum, with the hinder margin not so much produced, and the white on the lateral marginal plates more distinct. This specimen is something like *Testudo græca*, Linn., Schœpf, Testud. t. ix., but it is not quite so yellow.

Var. *whitei*, or female.

Testudo whitei, Bennett in White's Selborne.

A fine adult shell, with the hinder margin moderately expanded, and the caudal shield bent down and slightly inflexed; the sternum flat, the hinder lobe tapering behind, the anal shields being not more than two-thirds the width of the shields before them; the pectoral shields very short, not above one-fourth the length of the abdominal shields on the inner half, the outer half about double the width and square; the dorsal shields black; the areola varied with yellow; the hinder upper half of the marginal plates varied with yellow; the underside yellowish white, with a few irregular unequal-sized black spots. Adult female. The Tortoise described in White's 'Selborne,' and presented to the Museum in 1858 by Mrs. Christopher, niece of Mr. White.

9. PELTASTES LEITHII.

Testudo leithii, Günther, P. Z. S. 1869, p. 164.

Hab. Scinde.

I can see no difference between this and a young specimen of *Peltastes marginatus* in the British Museum, except that the shield is lighter-coloured; but the specimen of the latter was in confine-

ment. I keep them distinct because it is possible the adult may be different, as Dr. Leith assures me that he never saw a Tortoise in Sindh like the adult *T. marginatus* from Greece.

10. PELTASTES GRÆCUS.

Testuda græca, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. p. 10.

Peltastes græcus, Gray, P. Z. S. 1869, p. 173.

Hab. Shores of the Mediterranean; Italy, Greece, &c.

***** *Dorsal shields horn-coloured; nuchal shield none.* Africa.

11. PELTASTES SULCATUS.

Testudo sulcata, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. B. M. p. 9.

Peltastes sulcatus, Gray, P. Z. S. 1869, 173.

Hab. Central Africa.

TESTUDO HORSFIELDII, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. p. 7, t. 1, has been referred to the genus *Homopus*, and noticed under the name of *Homopus burnesii* by Blyth, because it has four claws on each foot; but it has not the alveolar surface of the jaws; and the general form of the shell is very like that of the genera *Testudo* and *Peltastes*, and very unlike that of the true *Homopus*; therefore I have found it necessary to form for it a new genus named *Testudinella*.

TESTUDINELLA.

Head covered with large thin plates on the nose and crown, with small polygonal scales over the orbits, nape, and temples. Horny sheath of the upper jaw rather high, with a deep broad notch in the upper edge of the front for the nose-disk, keeled in front. The dental edge acute, with a notch on each side and an acute keeled central lobe. Lower jaw rather strong, with a sharp denticulated dental edge and a rounded prominence in front. Alveolar surface with a small pit in front and a deep groove parallel to the whole outer margin; of the lower jaw with a distinct and narrow ridge on the inside, extending nearly the whole length of the outer margin of the jaw. Skull with a slender, short, scarcely prominent zygomatic arch, much narrower than the orbit or the tympanum. Thorax hemispherical, with a distinct nuchal shield. The fore legs covered with thick, large, triangular scales. Toes 4. 4.

Homopus, sp., Blyth.

1. TESTUDINELLA HORSFIELDII.

Testudo horsfieldii, Gray, Cat. Sh. Rept. p. 7 (1855).

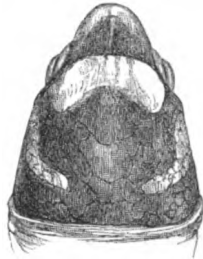
Homopus burnesii, Blyth, Journ. As. Soc. xxii. p. 641 (1853).

Hab. Hindostan.

RHINOCLEMMYS.

In the Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869, p. 189, I described two distinct species of this genus, divided into two sections. I have lately received from M. A. Sallé a very distinct species belonging to the first

section of the genus, distinguished by the general pale colour of the shell and animal, the very slight indication of the dorsal keel, and by the peculiar distribution of colour on the crown of the head.



Rhinoclemmys mexicana.

1. RHINOCLEMMYS MEXICANA.

Thorax oblong, slightly and bluntly keeled only in front, over the vertebral plates, dark brown, slightly mottled; dorsal and marginal shields thin; the first vertebral shield nearly square, four-sided, the second and third oblong, transverse, six-sided; sternum slightly raised on the sides, truncated in front and notched behind; dark brown, with an irregular yellow margin; head brown; throat and sides of the head yellow, black-spotted; crown dark brown, with a narrow white streak over the nostrils towards the orbits, with a broad white lunate band behind, with its front edge just even with the eyes, and with an indistinct broad pale streak on each side of the occiput.

Hab. Mexico; San Juan del Rio (*Rébouch*).

CHELODINA.

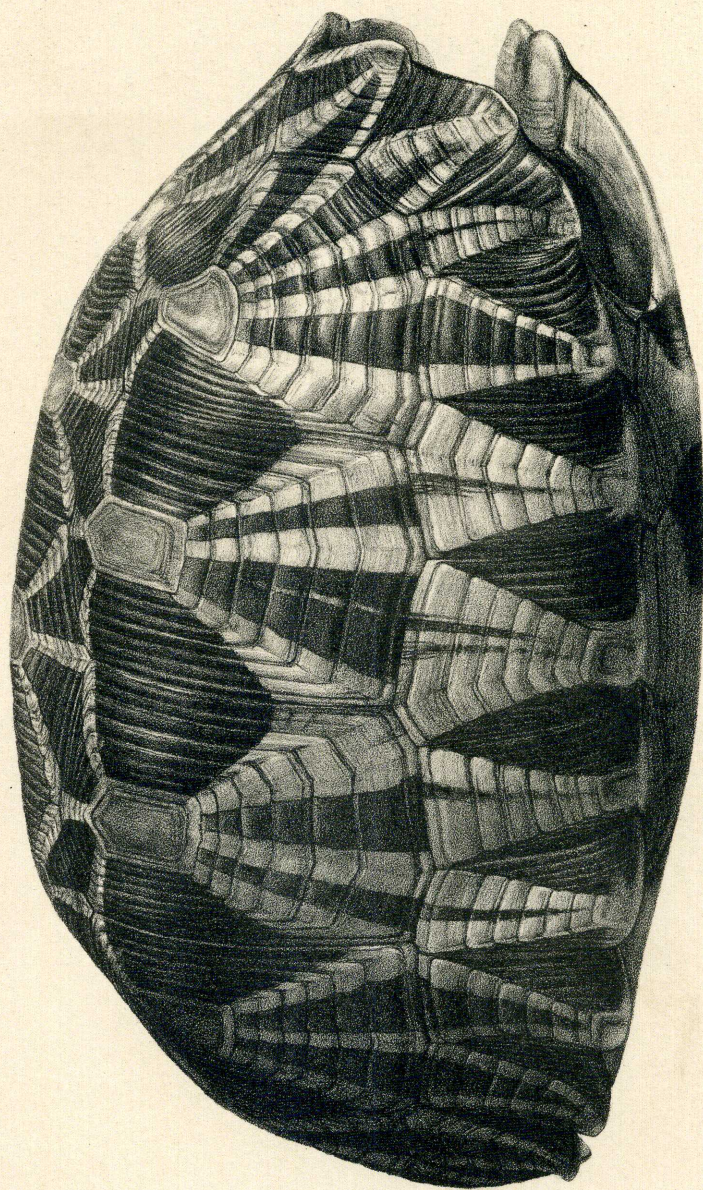
CHELODINA EXPANSA, Gray. (Plate XXXIV., young.)

This species was first described in the Society's 'Proceedings' for 1856 (p. 370), and the young shell was described and was intended to have been figured. The engraving was made of it at the time, but not published; it is therefore appended to this paper.

11. Descriptions of Ten New Species of Land-shells, collected by Mr. W. F. Petterd, of Hobart Town, Tasmania. By JOHN BRAZIER, C.M.Z.S.

1. HELIX (CHAROPA) CURAÇOE, n. s.

Shell rather widely umbilicated, depressed, thin, very closely and finely plicately ribbed, interstices smooth, white, not shining; spine



PELTASTES PLATYNOTUS

