

ART. XXII.—*Description of a new species of fresh water Tortoise, inhabiting the Columbia River; by RICHARD HARLAN, M. D., F. L. S., &c.*

EMYS *Oregoniensis*—(see plate.)

Characters.—Shell suboval, moderately depressed; dark brown or olive, with bright yellow irregularly disposed lines with black borders; anterior marginal plates very deep: sternum oblong, slightly constricted in the middle, emarginate and bidentate anteriorly, bright yellow, beautifully and curiously figured with black, with yellow curved longitudinal lines; head of moderate size, upper jaw bidentate at tip.

Description.—Shell broadest posteriorly, about the usual height of animals of this genus, rather depressed, very slightly emarginate behind, more so anteriorly, there being a deep notch on either side of the single anterior marginal plate, which is nearly pointed anteriorly; the vertebral plates five in number, the first nearly square, the second, third and fourth irregularly hexagonal, the posterior border of the latter curved so as to admit the arched anterior border of the fifth plate to project into it—the fifth plate elliptical above, and presenting four faces at its lower border for articulation with as many border plates: first lateral plate nearly triangular, connected with the first five marginal plates, the two middle lateral plates form oblong squares, with each an acute angle above entering between the sutures of the vertebral plates,—the last or fourth plate is pentagonal.

Marginal plates twenty five in number,—the nuchal plate pyramidal in form, with a deep notch on either side of its apex, its posterior margin being marked with two transverse depressed lines, the two first marginal plates on either side of the single one are quadrilateral and bluntly serrate on the anterior margin, and together with the third plate are unusually deep—the three following plates become abruptly narrowed and slightly emarginate at the inferior border—the six posterior plates are again enlarged, nearly square, and the two latter plates with each a slight notch on their inferior borders.

Sternum, yellow tinged with red on its outer sides, the central portions being figured with irregularly curved black bands interspersed with interrupted yellow lines; the second plates with each a black dot in their centre: the two anterior plates triangular, with their

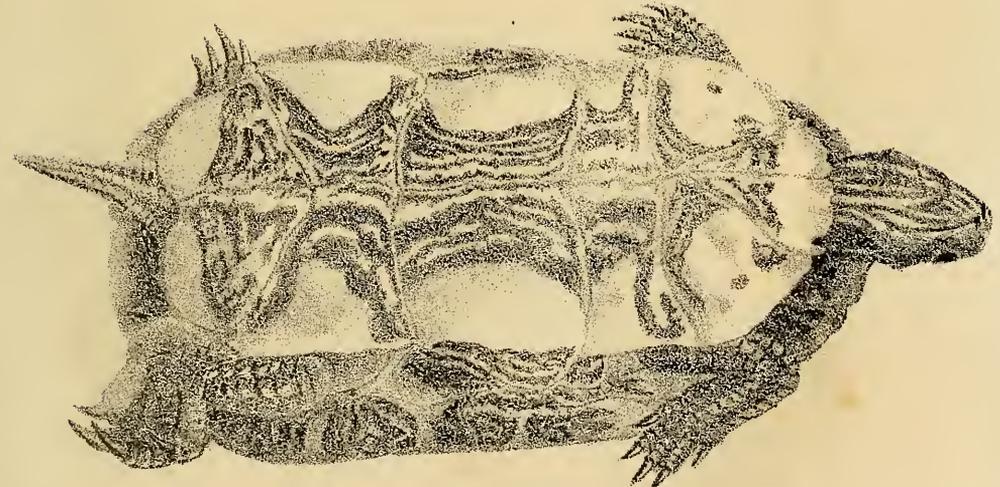
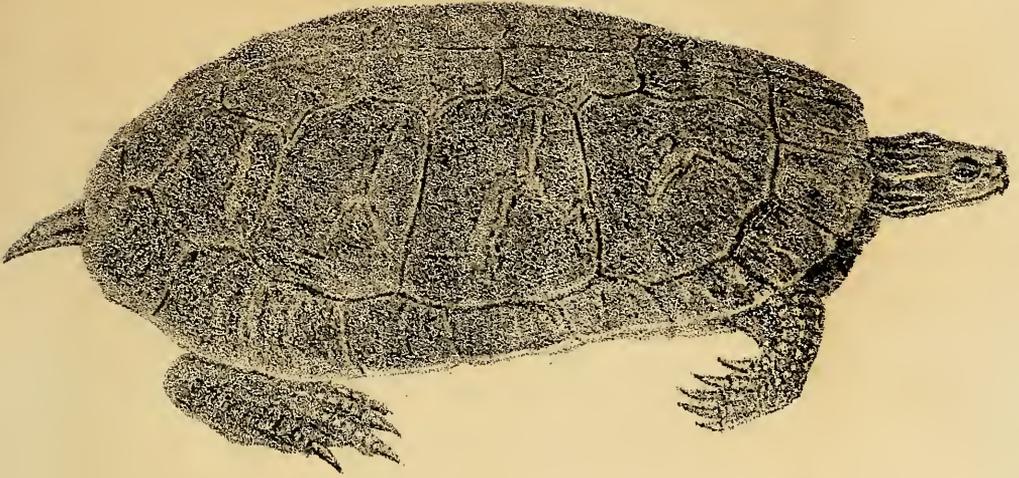


Figure 1. Batschli

EMYS ORIGONIENSIS

bases anterior, forming the outer border, which projects slightly beyond the general border, and is bluntly serrated in the middle, and with a dental process at the basal angles:—of the twelve plates composing the sternum, all are of different shape and size, the central longitudinal suture irregularly curved.

Head of moderate size, rather depressed; the upper jaw armed at its apex with two strong dental processes:—color of the crown of the same dark olive, mottled with black and yellow, as the rest of the animal—throat and neck with bright yellow longitudinal lines, which extend on the fore feet:—the inferior surfaces of the marginal plates marked with black bands striped with yellow.

Tail of the ordinary dimensions of animals of this genus;—the same may be observed respecting the feet; the anterior nails are longer than the hind nails; in both, the middle nails are the longest.

Dimensions.—Length of the back plate 8 inches; breadth of the same 6 in.: length of the sternum 7 in.; breadth of the same 4 in.: depth of the animal 2 in. 2 tenths: length of the head $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.; breadth of the same 1 in. 1 tenth: length of the longest claw 6 tenths; length of the longest posterior claw 4 tenths.

General Remarks.—My friend Thomas Nuttall, whose indefatigable exertions in natural history have extended throughout North America, on his recent travels across the continent to the Pacific Ocean, obtained the present specimen in the fresh water ponds in the vicinity of the Oregon or Columbia River, where this species was observed to abound, to the exclusion, according to his observation, of any other tortoise.

ART. XXIII.—*Notice of the ORBICULAR LIZARDS, or horned Agamas; by R. HARLAN, M. D., &c.*

AMONG the valuable treasures in natural history, recently brought by Mr. Nuttall from his journey across the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, are several excellently preserved specimens of a large species of Orbicular lizard, which he kindly placed at my disposal for the purpose of description. Mr. Nuttall obtained his specimens in California, and preserved them living for many weeks: he considered them of a very docile nature, never attempting to use their horns in self-defence; they inhabit under stones, and in holes, in the