

PRELIMINARY NOTE ON A NEW VARIETY OF
CYCLEMYS FLAVOMARGINATA FROM CHINA

BY

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Cyclemys flavomarginata Gray has been heretofore reported mostly from Formosa. The occurrence of this form were also recorded from South China by Guenther (1864), Gray (1870), and Boulenger (1889), but the correctness of the Chinese habitate was doubted. I saw only one specimen in the Museum of the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, Shanghai, which was secured by Mr. Wang-Wang Tang (唐旺旺) after the animal was dead and floated in the Hwangpu River. Mr. Tang is not certain that it was real a local animal, because Shanghai is cosmopolitan in settlement and it might be bought over by some one from other locality. The two specimens, described below, however, were collected by myself at Künshan Island, Tungting Lake, Central China (洞庭湖之君山) in October 1929. According to the informations given by the people there, this species is no doubt a native form. Confirming the statement by the people of Künshan that this animal is confined to that island, I did not find it in its vicinities such as Yuechow (岳州), Hwangshawan (黃沙灣), Chenglingchi (城陵磯) and Changsha (長沙). In regard to the distribution of this species I desire to obtain some further informations of its occurrence in different parts of China.

This form collected from Künshan agrees with that from Formosa in their general specific characters, but there is a great deal of difference in structural details, so it is deemed necessary,

for the sake of avoiding mechanical grouping together, to consider the present one as a new variety.

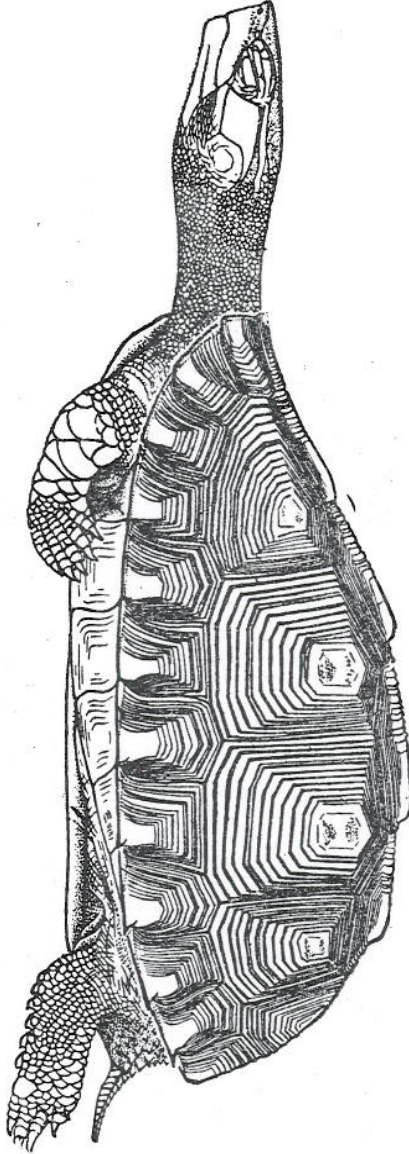


Fig. 1. *Cyclemys flavomarginata sinensis*, var. nov.
Lateral view of type. x-2/3.

Cyclemys flavomarginata sinensis, var. nov.

Diagnosis.—Differing from the Formosan species, *Cyclemys flavomarginata* Gray, in having the anterior end of the plastron obtusely emarginate; each shield of the plastron with deeply cut parallel lines; each marginal of the carapace with its posterior angle slightly overlapping the next plate and the degree of overlapping more pronounced in the case of the posterior third of the shell, so that the outline is somewhat serrate; a small notch between the anals; and tail much shorter.

Description.—Snout short, not projecting, lateral profile vertical, straight. Edge of jaws not denticulated. Upper jaw rather strongly hooked. Mandibular symphysis equal to the

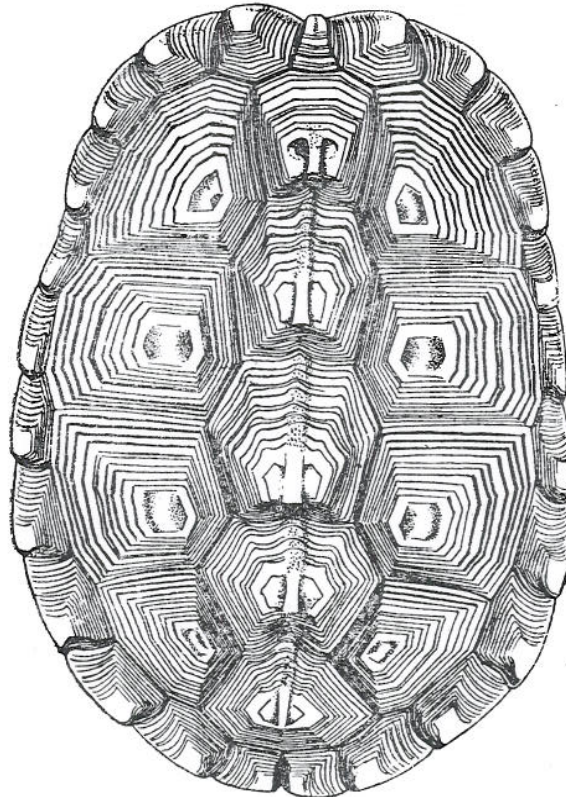


Fig. 2. *Cyclemys flavomarginata sinensis*, var. nov.
Carapace of type. x-2/3.

length of eye slit. Body not at all depressed, its depth being less than one-half its width. Carapace wider behind the middle, slightly emarginate in front. Shields with rather small areoles and wide margins with numerous deeply cut concentric lines. Vertebral keel more prominent in the center of each shield and sharply interrupted on the junction of the third and fourth vertebrals. A small longitudinal keel-like structure in the center of each costal areole. Nuchal rather large, broader behind than in front, longer than broad, with horizontally cut parallel lines covering its posterior two thirds. With exception of the fifth, all vertebrals emarginate behind, such character more pronounc-

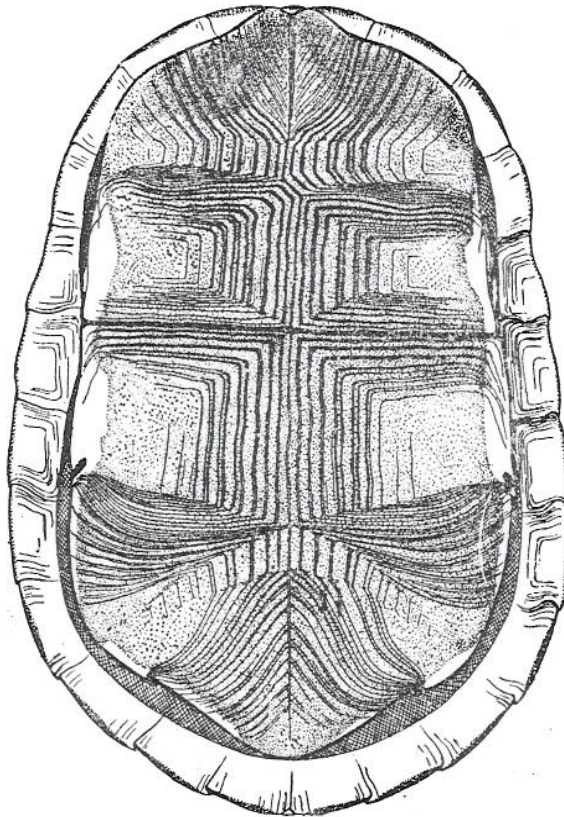


Fig. 3. *Cyclemys flavomarginata sinensis*, var. nov.
Plastron of type. x-2/3.

ed in the case of the fourth. First vertebral narrowest, broad about equal to long. Second vertebral longest, longer than broad. All the followings broader than long. Each of the five vertebral narrower than its adjacent costal. The first marginal as well as the sixth-tenth broadest. Lateral edge of each marginal slightly flaring and overlapping its following one, so as to make the margin of the carapace more or less serrate, especially on its posterior region of the shell. A slight notch between the two anals. Plastron flat, but depressed obviously in the gular and a part of the humeral region and slightly in the anal region; obtusely emarginate in front, round behind. Each shield with deeply cut parallel lines, mostly around the anterior and medial margins. Demarcation between each two adjacent shields not very obvious, especially that between the femoral and anals. A ligamentous hinge between pectoral and abdominal shield. Plastron fastened to carapace with ligament. Abdominal seam longest; anal seam disappearing near the posterior ends of the plates and the length of the part which is still distinct equal to that of humeral and gular taken together. Pectoral seam longer than gular but shorter than both humeral and gular together. Humeral and femoral seams very short, either of them slightly longer than one fourth the abdominal seam. Front part of arm with very large scales with free, round edges. Digits slightly webbed at base and with blunt claws. Base of tail and its adjacent regions with numerous blunt tubercles.

Color (in formalin): Carapace blackish brown. Each areole dark chestnut. Median keel in the first vertebral dark chestnut; in the second somewhat rufous brown; in the third somewhat rufous; and in fourth and fifth somewhat buff. Plastron uniformly black, except narrow outer margin on pectoral, abdominal, femoral and anal shields pale buff. Marginal underneath pale buff, except a very narrow outer margin blackish brown. Top of head pale olive green. From the upper posterior angle of the orbit to side of the occiput, extending two adjacent bands, the upper one yellow in color and the lower one olive green, each longitudinally bordered with black lines; posterior part of the lower band passing into the brownish ashy color of the neck.

Side of head somewhat pale buff. Maxilla pale greenish yellow. Mandible buff with reddish color on the symphysis region. Brownish ashy color of neck extending to shoulder. Legs dirty olive green dorsal and pale buff ventral. Tail dark brownish ashy above, with dirty olive green, longitudinal band on each side and on the middle line above, but entirely pale buff below.

Measurements

M. B. L. S. S. C. No.	1175, Type	1174, Cotype
Sex	♀	♀
Length of carapace	153mm.	156mm.
Breadth of carapace	112	112
Depth	70	72
Length of plastron	147	152
Breadth of plastron	88	89
Gular seam	26	24
Humeral seam	10	11
Pectoral seam	30	33
Abdominal seam	38	39
Femoral seam	9	12
Anal seam (Coalesed portion excluded)	33	28
Anal seam (Coalesed portion included)	38	38
Width of head	22	25
Length of tail from vent	18	18

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