

## SECTION II.

## SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION OF TESTUDINATA.

Whatever be the name admitted to designate this remarkable group of the animal kingdom, and whatever be the rank or dignity assigned to it, whether simply considered as a genus, or a family, or an order, all naturalists, with the exception of Strauss,<sup>1</sup> agree in regarding the Turtles as a natural division in the class of Reptiles. They differ only with respect to its standing in the class, the extremes of opinion being between Linnæus, who admits it only as a genus, and Strauss-Dürkheim, who considers it as a distinct class. We have already seen that the correct view is that which considers it as an order.<sup>2</sup>

It is more difficult to determine the value of the minor groups into which the Testudinata have been subdivided. Without entering into more details upon the subject than are found in most works on Herpetology, we shall hardly be able to form a just estimate of the real value of all these divisions, especially as few authors agree upon this point with one another. Linnæus, for instance, unites all the Turtles he knew in one genus, including the marine as well as the fresh-water and land species. Brongniart,<sup>3</sup> for the first time, considers them as a distinct order, under the name "CHELONIENS," and divides them into three genera: Testudo, Emys, and Chelonia. Cuvier, a few years later in his "Règne Animal," enumerates five genera in that order, but without any further divisions. Oppel,<sup>4</sup> as early as 1811, before enumerating the genera, introduces two higher divisions, under the names of Chelonii and Amydæ, for those Turtles which have oar-like or paddle feet, and those in which the fingers are distinguishable. These divisions of Oppel correspond to the sections Pinnata and Digitata of Merrem and Bell.<sup>5</sup> Gray,<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Compare Part II., Chap. I., Sect. 1, p. 240.

<sup>2</sup> The various names applied by different authors to this order, are: TESTUDINATA, *Klein*, *Quadrup. Disp.* Lipsiæ, 1751; adopted by Oppel in 1811; by Merrem in 1820; by Fitzinger in 1826; by Bell in 1828; by Bonnaparte in 1832; by LeConte in 1854. TESTUDINES, adopted by Wiegler in 1830. CHELONII, proposed by Brongniart in 1800; adopted by Cuvier in 1817; by Gray in 1825; by Wiegmann in 1832; by Duméril and Bibron in 1835; by Bonnaparte in 1836; by Holbrook in 1842. FORNICATA, proposed by Haworth in 1825. STERRI-

CHROTES, proposed by Ritgen in 1828. TYLOPODA, proposed by F. Meyer in 1849.

<sup>3</sup> BRONGNIART, (AL.,) *Essay d'une Classification naturelle des Reptiles*, Paris, 1805, 4to.

<sup>4</sup> OPPEL, (M.,) *Die Ordnungen, Familien und Gattungen der Reptilien*, München, 1811, 1 vol., 8vo.

<sup>5</sup> MERREM, (B.,) *Tentamen Systematis Amphibiorum*, Marburg, 1820, 1 vol., 8vo. — BELL, (TH.,) *Characters of the Order, Families, and Genera of Testudinata*, *Zoöl. Journal*, 1828.

<sup>6</sup> GRAY, (J. E.,) *A Synopsis of the Genera of Reptiles and Amphibia*, *Annals of Philosophy*, 1825.