

they agree with the Chelydroids and Hydraspids, while, in that respect, they differ strikingly from the Cinosternoids, the margin of which has a tendency to round itself up and turn inwards, as is also the case in the genuine Testudos, which constitute the last and highest family of the whole order. We shall presently see that among our native Emydoids there are two species which have generally been referred to the same genus, the *Cistudo carolina* and the *C. Blandingii*, one of which, however, is a genuine fresh-water species of the genus *Emys*, while the other is entirely terrestrial.

The family of Testudinina has always been circumscribed within its natural limits, ever since it was first distinguished.

Before we proceed to an analysis of the genera of the North American Testudinata, we may now recapitulate the results at which we have arrived respecting the general classification of the whole order, as follows:—

Order, TESTUDINATA, Klein.

1st *Sub-order, CHELONI, Opp.* With two families, Chelonioidæ and Sphar-
gididæ.

2d *Sub-order, AMYDÆ, Opp.* With seven families, Trionychidæ, Chelyoidæ,
Hydraspididæ, Chelydroidæ, Cinosternoidæ, Emydoidæ, and
Testudinina.

It should further be remarked that, as in all larger divisions of the animal kingdom, these families are not equally related to one another. The affinity of the Trionychidæ to the other families is not so close as that which brings the Cinosternoids near the Chelydroids, or certain Emydoids near the Testudinina, or the Hydraspids near the Chelyoids; yet after testing all their characters as far as my opportunities permitted, I have come to the conclusion that the seven groups above enumerated as families under the head of the sub-order Amydæ are truly natural families, characterized by different typical forms, which are defined by structural peculiarities, as we shall see more fully hereafter. The inequality among these families, in the degree of their relationship, is a feature which will appear objectionable, as long as the opinions respecting the supposed symmetry and equality of the natural divisions of animals, entertained at present by many scientific men, continue to prevail; and until the inequality of endowment characteristic of all organized beings is recognized as the law prevailing in the organic kingdoms, from the humblest individual to the most comprehensive types.

My opportunities of investigation do not justify me in attempting to characterize all the genera of the order of Testudinata. I must limit myself, in this part of my subject, to a general review of those which have representatives in