

as across the sacrum. The ischium is small, the pubis broad and flat; neither extends downward to any considerable distance from the hip joints. The feet are very large, and longer than that part of the legs which extends between the knees and elbows, and the joints of the wrist and the ankle. The toes are long, united by a web, and capable of being widely spread; the inner one is the stoutest, and from thence outward the others are more and more slender, so that the last two, and especially the last one, can serve for little else than to stretch the web; the middle one is the longest, and on either side of it the others grow shorter; the first, second, and third, in the genera examined,¹ have strong nails, the others none. The inner side of the feet and legs is thick, but from the outer side a broad web reaches out and adds much to the surface presented to the resistance of the water in swimming. The skin is not very closely attached to the legs, and hardly surrounds the front ones at all above the elbows.

The neck is very long and flexible. The head too is long, and terminated by a long, leathery snout. The brain-box forms a marked angle with the front part of the head, which is distinctly bent downward. The upper surface of the skull, after passing over the brain, turns steeply downward; the lower surface rises from its hind end to the front end of the brain-box, and falls thence forward, but not as steeply as the upper surface. The lower jaw grows more flattened toward the front end. The sides of the front part of the head approach each other forward, as in all the other representatives of the order. So the whole front part of the head, including the lower jaw, tapers to the projecting leathery snout. The mastoids are long, conical, narrow, from the brain-box outward, and taper backward to a point. The opening to the ear cavity is elongated lengthwise of the brain-box. The temporal arch is narrow, flat, and thin, and not far removed from the brain-box, so that the passage within it for the temporal muscle is small. The arch, from the top of the skull down to the maxillary, is also narrow, and brought near the brain-box. The parietals project very little or not at all outward. Thus the temporal muscle has a slight, narrow, bony covering. The pterygoids are broad, and have but slight depressions on their outer edges. The sphenoid reaches forward between the pterygoids to the palatines. The openings in the palate, by which the mouth communicates obliquely with the nasal cavity, are large, and extend far back; the corresponding openings in the back wall of the nasal cavity are also large, and the foramen olfactorium is large. There is in the skull an opening also in front of the vomer, just within and behind the curved end of the alveolar surface; but, in life, this opening is filled with a fleshy cushion.

¹ These details are truly family characters, as they determine the form of the feet.