

The marginal rim consists of eleven pairs, besides the odd ones at the ends, just mentioned. In the plastron there are nine plates, four pairs and one odd one. The second and third pairs unite with the marginal rim, form the narrow bridge, and then, stretching out lengthwise, form the larger part of the whole plastron. The first pair meet at the front end before the attachment of the shoulder apparatus, under the neck, where they are broadest, and then growing narrow, reach backward and outward and overlap the outside of the second pair. The odd plate is quite small; it is situated just back of the first pair within their angle, and sends a slender slip back some distance between the inner edges of the second pair. The fourth pair meet under the pelvis, terminating in a point just behind it, and reach forward and outward and overlap the third pair; they are broad where they meet, and grow narrow forward.

The scapular arch is high, and nearly perpendicular; it is much higher than broad, so that the shoulders are not nearly as wide apart as in the Trionychidæ, and not so near the outer edge; the coracoid process, the acromion, and the scapula are all long, especially the latter; the coracoid process is broad at its ends. The sacrum is broad; the iliac bones reach far forward, and approach each other as they descend from the sacrum, so that the hip joints are placed under the body far inward of the outer edge of both the end and the sides of the shield; the pubis and ischium reach steeply downward, and the processes of the pubis, which are long and strong, reach downward and forward, and not sidewise. The legs and feet are large and strong, the toes are stout, and all but the outer one of the hind feet terminate in long, curved, sharp, strong claws; they are freely flexible, but not capable of being spread nearly as wide apart as those of the Trionychidæ, and the web is much smaller, the whole foot being more compact than in the latter family.

The dorsal vertebral column is deep from the shield downward, and there is a large space for the longissimus dorsi on either side of it above the ribs for its whole length; the size of this space is connected with the flattening of the shield above. The isolated true bone, situated at the front end of the body, is quite distinct and prominent; it sends long, slender arms on either side under the marginal rim, as far back as to the ends of the second pair of ribs.

The neck is long, flexible, and stout, and has a powerful muscular apparatus. The tail, or, more properly speaking, that part of the vertebral column which extends behind the sacrum,¹ is very long and strong, much longer than the column between it and the neck. This is the case in the American genera, at least.

¹ The great length and strength of that part of the vertebral column which extends beyond the sa-

crum is not simply to be considered as relating to the size of the tail; the part which this region