

as a sub-family, calls them Testudinina. In 1835, Duméril and Bibron¹ admit this group again as a family, but change the name to Chersites. As this family stands at the head of the series, it needs only to be compared with the Emydoidæ, which are next below.

As in the Emydoidæ, the body rests upon a broad, flat surface, but here it continues broad and full much higher up. There is a general equilibrium throughout the body; and corresponding parts, between a middle transverse section and the two ends, pretty evenly balance one another. The whole form is distinguished by the division of its outlines into three well defined regions: a middle region, including the organs of digestion, respiration, and circulation, and extending from the first and second pairs of ribs, or, what is the same, from the scapular arch nearly to the seventh pair, and two other regions situated at the ends, including and protecting the extremities and some adjoining organs. The middle region is very high, broad, and long, and forms much the larger part of the body; its sides arch outward from end to end, but the cords of their arcs are nearly parallel; the top is straight, or arched upward; when straight, it is nearly parallel to the lower surface, and when arched, its cord is so. Thus the whole region is quite symmetrical, and its ends are nearly equal, and very large. The anterior and posterior regions are comparatively short and small, and the curves which close the ends of the body necessarily drop abruptly down, and turn abruptly about them, to meet the outlines of the middle region at sharp and well defined angles.

In most genera, the top and sides of the middle region are only slightly arched from end to end; but in *Psammobates*, and in *Cylindraspis*, they are so much raised as to obscure, at first sight, the distinction between the bulk of the body and the ends. Again, the symmetry of the middle region is somewhat disturbed by variations in the thickness of the shield, and by a somewhat greater elevation of the hind end; but neither of these modifications rises to importance in reference to the essential characters of the form; and on examination, the upper surface, divided and specialized as it is, is readily distinguished from the simply arched, bowl-like upper surface of the Emydoidæ. The regions at the ends very evenly balance one another in bulk, but differ considerably in form; the front one is shorter and broader at the front end, the other more elongated and narrowed toward the hind end; the upper surface descends also much lower behind than in front. As in the Emydoidæ, the openings about the ends, for the protrusion of the extremities, are narrow and small. The carapace is raised considerably above the plastron, a part of its edges turned abruptly downward and inward, and joined to the corresponding edges of the plastron, which are turned abruptly upward and outward, and

¹ *Erpét. génér.* vol. 2d, 1835.