

are all herbivorous, inoffensive, and shy. The Trionychidæ, on the contrary, which live upon fresh-water shells and the larvæ of aquatic insects, are quick in their motions, and bite about them like Snakes; while the Chelydroidæ, which live upon a large and active prey, are as ferocious as the wildest carnivorous beasts. The Cinosternoidæ, though also carnivorous, are rather active than fierce; the omnivorous Emydoidæ are more timid and inoffensive, and exhibit greater diversity in their mode of life; while the herbivorous Testudinina have the grave and confiding disposition of many of the Ruminants, though, owing to their slow motion, they have to trust solely to the strength of their covering for defence. But this coincidence, between the natural limits of families and the mode of life of their representatives, cannot be considered as a general rule obtaining throughout the animal kingdom, for among Fishes we find the most diversified habits in the same family. Among the Salmonidæ, as limited by J. Müller, who first recognized the natural boundaries of that family, there are voracious species, provided with strong, pointed teeth, and feeding exclusively upon living prey, such as the true Salmons and others which are entirely destitute of teeth and live upon decaying organic substances, such as the Coregonus. And yet these Fishes exhibit none of those striking differences which we are accustomed to consider as characteristic in the structure of carnivorous and herbivorous animals. Neither their alimentary canal, nor the large glands, nor the appendices pylorici connected with it, exhibit marked differences. This shows how cautious we ought to be in applying the mode of life of any animals as a test of their affinity.