

I. CHELONIA, *Brongn. (Fitz.)*

The genus *Chelonia*, when first separated from *Testudo* by A. Brongniart, included all the marine Turtles, even *Sphargis*. It was next limited to the *Chelonioidæ* proper, and in this extension it corresponds exactly to Merrem's genus *Caretta*. Now it embraces only the green Turtles. It was first restricted to its present limits by Fitzinger.¹

The head of this genus, thus limited, is high, and continues so forward to the frontal region, where the upper surface descends steeply to the nose. From the nose down, the outer surface of the end of the bill of the upper jaw is curved outward; but it is turned back as far below as above. The mouth is long, but broadly curved at the front end. The alveolar edge of the bill of the upper jaw is straight, or slightly concave at the sides, and slightly notched at the front end; it is sharp, but not serrated. The vertical inner surface is broadest at the hind end, and narrows thence forward till at the front end a small pit in the palate again widens it. The outer edge of the horny roof descends from behind forward to the pit above mentioned; the surface within descends from this edge inward to a ridge, which ridge has a deep depression at the symphysis, is most prominent on each side of the depression, and decreases thence backward. The space between this ridge and the outer wall is a furrow, into which the lower jaw fits, as well as into the pit in front. Within this ridge the surface is broad, and also has a depression at the symphysis; this surface descends to a small ridge at its inner edge. The lower jaw is highest at the angle, and falls thence forward, but at the front end there rises a small, sharp projection. The alveolar edge of this jaw is deeply serrated. Within this edge is a furrow, corresponding to the ridge of the upper jaw, which is widest at the symphysis, and there divided by a transverse ridge; it is deepest on each side of that ridge, and fades out shortly before reaching the angle of the jaw. The ridge on the inner side of this furrow does not descend from behind forward as fast as the outer alveolar edge, and at its front end is as high as the latter; it rises at the symphysis to a sharp tooth, which is, however, almost entirely formed from the horny covering. The ridge vanishes with the furrow backward. Its inner surface descends a little way, in one slope, and then more steeply to the attachment of the tongue. The outer alveolar edge of this jaw is serrated as far back as the hind angle of the jaw. When the mouth is closing, this edge approaches the alveolar

¹ Syst. Rept. 1843. It is adopted by J. E. Gray, in the same extent. Cat. Brit. Mus. 1844, and by

Tschudi, in his *Fauna peruana*, 1845; but Tschudi proposes to change the name to *Euchelonia*.