

slope to the attachment of the tongue. The cutting edges are blunt and not serrated, and the horny surface of the mouth generally smooth.

The body is very broad across the shoulders, and short from the scapular arch to the front end. The marginal rim flares out broad at the hind end, and continues so forward nearly to the shoulders. The curve, from side to side over the upper median line of the body, is somewhat flattened. There is a keel along the median line. The scales are everywhere thin and flexible. The head is so flattened above that the circle of scales around the large median one on top is almost entirely upon the upper surface. The scales of this circle are less regular and more numerous than in the other genera, about twenty in number in the specimen examined. There are two pairs between this circle and the nose. The field of scales on the cheeks is small, but the number is about the same as in *Chelonia*, namely, from fifteen to twenty. There is one marked peculiarity in the arrangement of the scales on the shield, namely, an addition of one scale to the row covering the costals, on each side of the median row, on the upper surface. The additional scale is small, and situated at the front end of its row. In the specimens examined there are twenty-seven scales in the marginal row, which is one pair more than in the specimens of the other genera which could be compared.

This genus numbers thus far only two species;¹ one of which is found in the Atlantic and in the Mediterranean, and the other in the Pacific Ocean.

THALASSOCHELYS CAOUANA, *Fitz.* This species is very common along the American coasts of the Atlantic, from Brazil to the southern United States.² It is the most common species of Chelonioid found upon the coasts of the United States, as it is even frequent in latitudes where other species occur only accidentally. It breeds usually as far north as the thirty-second degree of latitude, on the coast of South Carolina, whence I have obtained large numbers of eggs, through the kindness of Hon. J. Townsend, and occasionally even as far north as North Carolina and Virginia. It may be seen along the whole coast of the more southern States during the breeding season, in Georgia, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi. From Florida I have obtained eggs in every stage of development,

¹ J. E. Gray enumerates a third species, *Cat. Brit. Mus.*, under the name of *Caouana elongata*, of which, however, he has only seen one shield. I must leave it doubtful whether the species of the Pacific, the *Chelonia olivacea* of Eschscholtz, (*Chelonia Dussumieri*, *Dum. and Bibr.*), truly belongs to this genus, or is to be considered as the type of a distinct genus, *Lepidochelys*, as Fitzinger thinks.

² Its most common names are *Testudo Caretta*, *Chelonia Caretta*, *Testudo Cephalo*, *Chelonia Cephalo*, *Caretta Cephalo*, *Testudo Caouana*, *Chelonia Caouana*, *Caretta Caouana*, *Caouana Caretta*, etc. For references, see Dr. Holbrook's *N. Am. Herp.*, and *Dum. and Bibr. Erpôt. génér.* With the exception of Valenciennes, all zoölogists consider the European and the American *Caouana* as identical.