

to the same genus, or ought also to embrace other species, which are referred to different genera. Of *Aspidonectes*, *Wagl.*, *Gymnopus*, *Dum.* and *Bibr.*, and *Trionyx*, *Gray*, this will be self-evident, as soon as it is shown that the North American species, which have all been referred to these genera, belong in reality to three different genera. *Pelodiscus* and *Potamochelys*, *Fitz.*, and *Tyrse*, *Gray*, run together in the same manner, on account of the heterogeneous species they contain. Therefore, one question only remains, Which of these names are to be retained for the North American species? Of all the generic names not yet strictly applied, *ASPIDONECTES*, *Wagl.*, is the oldest; and as it was established for species, some of which, as *Tr. javanicus* and *ægyptiacus*, agree with some of the American ones, as *Tr. spinifer*, *LeS.*, I shall retain that name for the genus to which our *Tr. spinifer* belongs. Next stands the genus *PLATYPELTIS*, *Fitz.*, which, though made to include also *Tr. spinifer*, *LeS.*, is yet meant for *Tr. ferox*, *Schw.*, and may therefore be retained for the genus of which *Tr. ferox Schw.* must be considered as the type, and which must also embrace *Tr. gangeticus*, *Cur.* The adoption of these two genera renders *Gray's* name *Tyrse* and *Fitzinger's* *Potamochelys* and *Pelodiscus* entirely superfluous, as *Tyrse* includes *Tr. javanicus*, *ægyptiacus*, and *gangeticus*, and *Potamochelys Fitz.* is founded upon *Tr. javanicus*, while *Pelodiscus* rests upon *Tr. sinensis*, *Wieg.*, and *labiatus*, *Bell.* We have thus appropriated, for six natural genera, six of the names introduced among the *Trionychidæ*, and shown that six out of the remaining seven have no scientific value. But there is a third American genus, founded upon *Tr. muticus*, *LeS.* I am glad to have an opportunity of honoring the memory of *Schweigger* by fixing upon this genus the name of *AMYDA*, first proposed by *Schweigger* for the whole type of *Trionychidæ*, though wantonly rejected by *Geoffroy*, and so vaguely applied by *Fitzinger* to one of his genera.

It has already been stated that the eggs of the *Trionychidæ* (Pl. 7, fig. 20-23) are spherical and very brittle.¹ The young at the time of hatching (Pl. 6, fig. 1-7) exhibit fully their family character; they are flat, discoid, and orbicular in outline; their head only is comparatively shorter and rounder than in the adult, and the neck thicker, but the proboscis is very prominent; the feet have already their characteristic web, and the membranous fold which extends along the upper edge of the four legs (Pl. 6, fig. 2 and 5). The ossification of the shield is so little advanced that there is no sign of a carapace or plastron visible externally through the soft, scaleless skin.

The *Trionychidæ* were for some time supposed to have existed upon our globe as early as during the Devonian period. I have shown, however, that the

¹ See Part II., Chap. 2, Sect. 4, p. 334.