

were found in large quantities in the stomach of a specimen of *Trionyx ferox*, the type of the genus, examined shortly after it had been caught. Similar fragments were found in the fæces of other specimens preserved alive.

The type of the genus *Platypeltis* is the *Tr. ferox*, *Schw.* It is the oldest species of this family known from North America. It was first described by Dr. Garden of Charleston, in a paper printed in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London, in 1771, from which all later writers have borrowed their information, until Major LeConte, Duméril and Bibron, and Dr. Holbrook¹ gave a fuller account of this species. I have little to add to their descriptions; but these authors are certainly all mistaken in considering this species as identical with LeSueur's *Tr. spinifer*. Not only are *Tr. ferox*, *Schw.*, and *Tr. spinifer*, *LeS.*, distinct species, but they belong unquestionably to different genera, as a comparison of the skulls will show at first sight. I have compared large series of specimens of both kinds, from the very young to adults, and can speak with confidence upon this point. Though Fitzinger unites also *Tr. spinifer* and *ferox* as synonymes, I have thought it preferable to adopt the name he proposes for this genus, and assign to it a definite meaning, than to frame a new one, which in the end would appear co-extensive with *Platypeltis*.

PLATYPELTIS FEROX, *Fitz.*² This species is only found in the Southern States, from Georgia to Western Louisiana. Dr. W. B. Daniel has sent me many specimens from Savannah, its northernmost station in the Atlantic States. It abounds in the St. John River of Florida (Bartram, LeConte). I am indebted for many specimens from Western Georgia and Western Florida to Dr. Gessner, of Columbus, and Mr. Eppes, of Tallahassee. Dr. Nott has sent me others from Alabama, especially a series of very young ones. To Professor Chilton, of New Orleans, I am indebted for specimens from the Lower Mississippi; and to Mr. Winthrop Sargent, of Natchez, for the largest specimens I have ever seen or heard of, one of which measured eighteen inches and a half from the front to the hind margin of the carapace, and sixteen across.

¹ Compare the works q. n., p. 30, for further references, but exclude from their synonymy every thing that relates to *Tr. spinifer*, *LeS.*

² The names most frequently applied to this species, by different authors, are *Testudo ferox*, *Trionyx ferox*, *Tr. carinatus*, *Tr. georgicus*, *Tr. Brongniarti*, *Tr. Bartrami*, *Tr. Harlani*, *Aspidoneutes ferox*, *Asp. carinatus*, and *Gymnopus spiniferus*. The external resemblance between *Platypeltis ferox* and *Aspidoneutes spinifer* and *asper*, is so great, that I am not sur-

prised that they have been confounded, or even deliberately considered as identical. We have, in fact, a case here, of which a few other examples only are thus far known, in which, under the most surprising similarity of external appearance, marked structural peculiarities, amounting to generic differences, are hidden. I have already pointed out such cases in the genera *Phoxinus* and *Chrosomus*, and in the genera *Carpinodes*, *Bubalichthys*, and *Ichthyobus*, among Cyprinoids (*Amer. Journ. of Sci. and Arts*, 2d ser. vol. 19,