It is true that this species very much resembles Tr. spinifer, *LeS.*, in its external appearance; but, even without referring to their generic characters, they may readily be distinguished in every stage of growth. The male of Platypeltis ferox, with its projecting tail, is much more oblong[1] than that of Aspidonectes spinifer, while the females are very similar in their rotundity. The tubercles upon the shield are also larger and more numerous in the male ferox than in the female; just the reverse from what we see in spinifer. The young ferox (Pl. 6, fig. 3) has two or three concentric black lines separating the pale margin from the light brown colored back, which are sometimes preserved even to their full-grown size; in Asp. spinifer I have never observed more than one such line, which disappears rather early. The back of Pl. ferox is studded with well-defined black dots, which become ocellated only in later years, and are finally changed into dark blotches in the adult. The lower surface is entirely white, even the lower surface of the feet, which are mottled, streaked, and dotted with black in Aspidonectes spinifer, Asp. nuchalis, and Asp. asper. Aspidonectes spinifer never grows so large as ferox, and is only found in the Northern States, within the same limits as Amyda mutica, with which it is mostly found associated. The eggs of Platypeltis ferox (Pl. 7, fig. 22) are of a somewhat smaller size than those of Aspidonectes spinifer: they are, however, a little larger than those of Amyda mutica, represented upon the same plate.

The peculiar coloration of the lower surface of the feet, and the mottled appearance of the lower part of the neck, of Asp. spinifer, first attracted my attention as differing from Platypeltis ferox, and led me to a careful revision of our Trionychidæ. Trusting to the accuracy of previous writers, I have myself believed, for a number of years, that there existed only two species of that family in the United States, and that these two species belonged to one and the same genus, until large collections of specimens from every part of the country, and a thorough examination of their structure, satisfied me that we possess not less than six species, belonging to three different genera: one Amyda, one Platypeltis, and four Aspidonectes, the geographical distribution of which is particularly interesting. In the North-Western States, two species occur together, belonging to two different genera, Amyda mutica and Aspidonectes spinifer; in the Middle Western States one species, Aspidonectes nuchalis; in the South-Eastern

p. 71.) Many similar examples might be quoted among the Rodentia.

[1] The figure of Dr. Holbrook, in the North American Herpetology, Vol. 2, Pl. 1, represents very distinctly this oblong form of the male Platypeltis ferox. It is less so in Aspidonectes spinifer, as the figure of LeSueur published in the Mém. du Mus., Vol. 15, Pl. 6, distinctly shows. These two figures will at once exhibit the differences characteristic of the forms of the two species.