

and Southern States, two species, belonging to two different genera, *Platypeltis ferox* and *Aspidonectes asper*; and in the South-West, in Texas, one species, *Aspidonectes Emoryi*.

### III. ASPIDONECTES, *Wagl.*

The head is broader, and less flattened, than in *Amyda*. The sides of the front part of the head approach each other continually, and are nearly straight from behind forward. The proboscis is straight, and cut vertically; the nostrils are crescent-shaped, and subdivided by a projecting ridge arising from the middle of the narrow vertical partition which separates them. The outer surface of the maxillaries curves out, from the suture with the prefrontals, for about half its width, then turns down and descends almost vertically to the alveolar edge. Thus the mouth is broader, and the nose less rounded, than in *Amyda*. The alveolar edge curves down slightly from end to end; it is sharp, but in the adult it has no teeth. The vertical alveolar surface is broadest near the front end, and narrows thence backward. The horizontal alveolar surface is broadest at the hind end, and narrows thence forward; it descends nearly constantly from the hind to the front end. There is here, as in *Amyda*, a large opening in the skull in front of the vomer. The symphysis of the lower jaw is much shorter than in *Amyda*, and the end of the jaw broader. The alveolar surface narrows from the symphysis backward; at its front end it descends steeply from the outer edge inward, but at its hind end the inner edge is raised, so that there is a slight depression in the surface there. The alveolar edge is sharp all round. Thus we have in this genus stronger jaws, with broader alveolar surfaces, than in *Amyda*, and cutting, but not toothed, alveolar edges.

*ASPIDONECTES SPINIFER*, *Ag.* All modern herpetologists seem to agree in the opinion that *Trionyx spinifer*, *LeS.*, is identical with *Tr. ferox*, *Schur.* I have satisfied myself, by a direct comparison of a large number of specimens of every age, that this is a mistake. It is true, Dr. Holbrook has shown<sup>1</sup> that there is an easy water communication between the different stations occupied by these Turtles; but it does not follow, that, because animals may migrate without serious obstacle over any extent of land or sea, they are necessarily the same within the boundaries of such areas. The ingenious suggestion of Dr. Holbrook, intended to explain the presence of a southern species in the waters of the North-Western and North-Eastern States, as far as Lake Champlain, has in reality only put an end to all further comparisons between our Trionychidæ.

<sup>1</sup> North American Herpet. Vol. 2, p. 15.