

genus, and also from *Platypeltis ferox*, by the very coarse and large tubercles of the front and hind part of the carapace, which extend, behind, even over the bony shield, and are there supported by prominent warts of the bony plates. These bony warts exist in no other species with which I am acquainted: their form is very irregular, sometimes oblong and sometimes orbicular; they also project more or less. Another marked peculiarity of this species consists in the greater bluntness of the extremities of the jaws, which are more rounded than in *Asp. spinifer*. The jugal arch is also broader. The difference between the males and the females is more striking in this species than in any other, the males being regularly oval, whilst the females are almost circular in their outline. I have noticed no difference between the coloration of this species and that of *Asp. spinifer*, except that in younger specimens of *Asp. asper* there are, as in *Platypeltis ferox*, two or three black lines separating the pale rim of the posterior margin, whilst there is only one in *Asp. spinifer*; these lines are, however, closer together, and fade away sooner than in *Platypeltis ferox*. This combination of external characters, partly resembling *Asp. spinifer* and partly *Plat. ferox*, explains how these species could be mistaken as one. Indeed, were it not for their generic characters, a series of specimens might easily be selected, showing every possible transition between them. I do not know, in the whole animal kingdom, another type, in which the importance of the study of the generic characters, prior to distinguishing species, is brought more forcibly before the student, than the family of *Trionychidæ*, unless it be that of *Cinosternoidæ*.

Thus far I have had no opportunity of examining the eggs of this species; nor do I know the appearance of the young, recently hatched, unless a young specimen, sent me by Professor Baird from the north-western part of Louisiana, be the young of this species. It differs but slightly from the young *Aspidonectes nuchalis*; it has the same large ocelli, but the bridge connecting the carapace and plastron, and a longitudinal area, before and behind the bridge, are tinged with black.

*ASPIDONECTES NUCHALIS*, Ag. I have only seen three adult specimens of this species, for which I am indebted to Prof. Lindsley, of Nashville, Tennessee, and a number of young ones, which I owe to the kindness of Prof. Baird; the first collected in Cumberland River, the others in the head waters of the Tennessee River. I learn from Dr. Samuel Cunningham, of Jonesboro', that, in the higher tributaries of the Tennessee River, a species of *Trionyx*, which I suppose to be this, is found at a considerable height in the Alleghanies; a very unexpected fact, considering the prevalence of this family in warmer regions. This species differs strikingly from *Asp. spinifer* in the much more elongated form of the male, and in the great development of the marginal spines and of the tubercles upon the car-