CHAP. III.

OZOTHECA ODORATA, Ag.¹ This is the most common species of the sub-family. Its geographical range is very extensive, extending from New England to South Carolina, Georgia, and Western Florida, and westward to the Mississippi valley, as far as Missouri and Louisiana. I have specimens from Mobile, from New Orleans, from Tennessee, and from western Missouri, which leave no doubt upon this point, and for which I am indebted to Dr. Nott, Dr. Benedict, and Professor Baird. The color varies greatly, from light to dark brown, with or without spots. Major LeConte has described, under the name of Cinosternum guttatum,² specimens from Pennsylvania, in which the spots are unusually numerous and distinct. I have satisfied myself, however, by a careful comparison of the original specimen which Major LeConte had the kindness to intrust to me for examination, and of many others from the same locality, (Upper Darby, Pennsylvania,) sent me by Prof. Baird, and from other localities by Dr. Hallowell, that this is a mere variety of our common Ozotheca odorata. I have found similar specimens in Cambridge, among others that varied from a uniform tint to a more or less dotted surface. The young are represented Pl. 4, fig. 1-6;³ the eggs, Pl. 7, fig. 7-9.

OZOTHECA TRISTYCHA, Ag. This species is only found in the Western and Southwestern States. I have many specimens, collected by Mr. G. Stolley, in the Osage River, in Missouri, and in Williamson County in Texas. Prof. Baird has sent me four young belonging to the Smithsonian Institution, that were obtained by Dr. C. B. Kennerly, near San Antonio, and two others from the Medina River, in Texas. The young are represented Pl. 5, fig. 20–22. Although Ozotheca odorata varies greatly, not only in color, but even in outline, I have no doubt that this is a distinct species, characterized, when young, by the great prominence of the keels upon the vertebral and costal plates⁴ and by numerous dark dots between the scales of the sternum, and when adult by a marked difference in the form of the snout. In Ozotheca odorata the snout is much more prominent, on account of the slope of the upper jaw, which extends further back, and is therefore less steep, than in Ozotheca odorata, and suddenly turned up.

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¹ This species has been referred to so many genera that it appears, in different works, under more names than any other North American Turtle. Its oldest name is Testudo odorata, which was afterwards changed to Terrapene odorata, Cistudo odorata, Sternotherus odoratus, Cinosternum odoratum, Emys odorata, Staurotypus odoratus. Testudo glutinosa, Emys glutinosa, Terrapene Boscii, and Sternothærus Boscii are other synonymous names. (Comp. Holbr.

N. Am. Herp. p. 133, and Duméril and Biliron, Erp. gén. vol. 2, p. 358.)

² Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sc., Philad., 1854, p. 185 and 189.

* The figure of a young, two years old, shows how the scales increase only along the anterior and lateral margins, thus tending to give them an imbricated appearance.

4 Comp. Pl. 4, fig. 1-6, and Pl. 5, fig. 20-22.