PLATYTHYRA FLAVESCENS, *Ag.* I have examined several specimens of this species, sent to me by the Smithsonian Institution. Some of them were obtained in Texas, near San Antonio, and upon the Lower Rio Grande; others on the Red River, Arkansas; and others at Camp Yuma, on the Gila River, by Dr. R. O. Abbott. It is of a yellowish green color; the scales are imbricated, and edged with black. The young are represented Pl. 5, fig. 12–15.

SECTION VIII.

THE GENERA OF EMYDOIDÆ.

From want of sufficient materials, I cannot attempt to characterize all the genera of this numerous family, and shall have to limit myself to the North American types. Fortunately these are numerous enough to enable me to show upon what features the genera are founded; even though I do not intend to enter here into such minute details of their characteristics as I have presented for the genera of the preceding families,[1] excepting where this becomes necessary to establish the validity of the new genera which I have recognized. The Chelydroids and Cinosternoids being excluded from the Emydoids, this family appears here circumscribed within narrower limits than those assigned to it by previous writers. All its American representatives are included by most modern herpetologists in two genera, Emys and Cistudo,[2] to which J. E. Gray has added the genus Malaclemys, and two sub-genera, Chrysemys and Lutremys.[3] They all lay oblong eggs, and the young when hatched are circular in outline in all of them;[4] but, even at that time, they vary in various ways in different genera and sub-families. The differences between the males and females are not so constant as in some other families. It is, however, generally the case that the males are flatter and more elongated. It will not be possible to determine accurately the period of the first appearance of this family in past geological ages, until the

[1] My object, in this second part of my work, is chiefly to show in what manner the principles advocated in the first part may be applied in illustrating any special group of animals. Having done this in the preceding sections as far as I am prepared to do it now, it would be superfluous to extend further this analysis of the Testudinata. Moreover, the genera of Emydoidæ are too numerous to allow this to be done satisfactorily, without enlarging too much the bulk of this volume. As to the species, I have limited myself to mere hints, because I intend to give elsewhere full descriptions with figures of the new ones.

[2] Compare p. 251 and 252.

[3] Cat. Brit. Mus., 1844, p. 27, 28, 31.

[4] See p. 292 and 386.