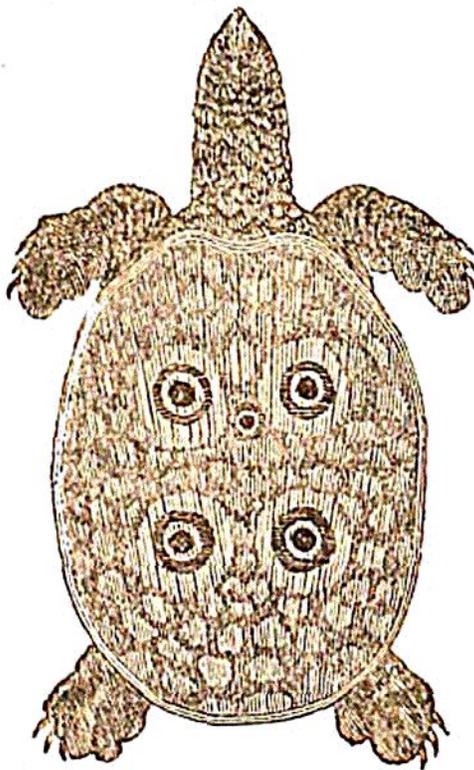


water more than ten minutes, enables it to breathe without exposing itself to observation. When on shore it turns itself to the point from which the wind blows, keeping its mouth open. Adanson relates that he once saw in the Senegal more than two hundred of these river monsters swimming together, with their heads only emerging, and resembling so many trees. Were it not for the number of their enemies, great and small, their increase would be so rapid that they would drive man from the vicinity of the great rivers of the torrid zone. The River-horse* attacks them and destroys many—Behemoth against Leviathan—for though the Leviathan of the Psalmist is clearly a marine animal or monster,† that of Job‡ is as clearly the

Fig. 103.



Tryonix Gangeticus.

crocodile,§ and they are stated to destroy many of them; even the feline race, in some countries, contrive to make them their prey. Though the scales that cover their back are impervious to a musket ball, those on the belly are softer and more easily penetrated; and here the saw-fish, and other voracious fishes, find them vulnerable, and so destroy them. The *Trionyx*, also, a kind of tortoise, devours them as soon as hatched. Their eggs are the prey not only of the ichneumon and the lizard, before mentioned, but of many kinds of apes; and aquatic birds also devour them, as well as man himself.

The crocodile has no lips, so that when he walks or swims

* Hippopotamus.

‡ Chap. xli.

† Ps. civ. 26.

§ Vol. i. p. 76.