

FEB : 4 1966

Reptalia

WJL

2L
296.8
246m
C.1

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS PUBLICATIONS
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

375a

Volume 15, No. 13, pp. 615-625, pls. 26-28, 2 figs.

July 20, 1965

A New Species of Turtle, Genus *Kinosternon*,
From Central America

BY

JOHN M. LECLER

CANAL ZONE
BIOLOGICAL AREA
LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE
1965

able. There is insufficient evidence at present to evaluate judiciously the standing of these taxa, in terms of species *vs.* subspecies. The apparent rarity of both taxa and general lack of field work in critical areas combine to make the problem an irresolvable one now. *K. angustipons* is here regarded as a full species because it is morphologically distinctive and is not known to interbreed with *K. dunni* nor other kinosternids.

The gap separating the known ranges of *dunni* and *angustipons* is at least 400 miles (from Almirante to the mouth of the Río Atrato) and includes the whole of the Isthmian region of Panamá. Possibly the gap is more apparent than real. Until better evidence is available, I predict (by inference from studies of other aquatic chelonians in Central America) that *dunni* and *angustipons* constitute an example of a pair of closely related species of recent origin whose ranges are separated narrowly in the Isthmian region of Panamá. The species *Geoemyda funerea* (Cope) and *G. punctularia* (Daudin) constitute another such pair in the same region whereas *Staurotypus triporcatus* (Wiegmann) and *S. salvini* Gray probably constitute a like example in northwestern Central America.

Relationships.—Except for its evident close relationship to *K. dunni*, the relationship of *K. angustipons* to other members of the genus is not clear. The combination of narrow plastron and narrow bridge is a striking feature and is seen also, to variable degrees, in *Kinosternon bauri* Garman, *K. herrerae* Stejneger, *K. hirtipes* Wagler, and *K. subrubrum* (Lacépède). My own studies of these species indicate that none of them is especially closely related to *angustipons* or *dunni*, in spite of the plastral similarity. Beyond this, I am unable to assess the relationships of *K. angustipons* at the moment.

Remarks.—*Kinosternon angustipons* is seemingly nowhere well known by natives. The species is not utilized for food (kinosternids rarely are) and, to my knowledge, it has not been given a common name even in local areas where many persons are familiar with turtles. In western Panamá and northern Costa Rica, *K. angustipons* and *K. leucostomum* are called "Galápago." Most persons who confused the two species in this manner were quick to see the differences I pointed out to them.

The specific name *angustipons* is from the Latin *angustus* (narrow) and *pons* (bridge) meaning narrow bridged.

Acknowledgments.—I am grateful to Dr. William E. Duellman (University of Kansas) and Dr. Robert F. Inger (Chicago Natural History Museum) for the loan of specimens. The authorities of the Gorgas Memorial Laboratory in

773

Panamá (especially Drs. C. F. Johnson, M. Hertig, G. B. Fairchild, and P. Galindo) did much to facilitate field work in that country as did Dr. Alvaro Wille (University of Costa Rica) in Costa Rica. Messrs. C. M. Keenan and E. Mendez have provided additional specimens from Panamá. Messrs. Lee Bell and Nowlan Dean rendered capable assistance in the field. Elizabeth Lane made the drawings of the skull. Research on which this account is based was supported by the Society of Sigma Xi (RESA Grant) and the University of Utah Research Committee in 1960, and thereafter by the National Science Foundation (Grant # B-10173).

In August of 1964, after the above account was in press, I discovered that Mr. Wilfred T. Neill had prepared a description of the species newly named in this paper. My thanks go to Mr. Neill for having withdrawn his manuscript when he learned of mine.

LITERATURE CITED

MEDEM, F.

1961. Contribuciones al conocimiento sobre la morfología, ecología y distribución geográfica de la tortuga *Kinosternon dunnii* K. P. Schmidt. *Novedades Colombianas*, 1(6):446-476, 13 figs., 2 tables, 1 map, 1 September.
1962. La distribución geográfica y ecología de *Los Crocodylia* y *Testudinata* en el departamento del Chocó. *Rev. Acad. Colombiana Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Nat.*, 11(44):279-303; 56 figs. (comprising 20 pls.), folding map, December.

SCHMIDT, K. P.

1947. A new kinosternid turtle from Colombia. *Fieldiana Zoology*, 31(13):109-112, fig. 14, 11 April.

Museum of Zoology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah. Transmitted to editor January 21, 1964.



50-5832

*What is the most important thing
in the world? It is the "Lab."*