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

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able. There is insufficient evidence at present to evaluate judi-
ciously 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 mor-
phologically 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 avail-
able, I predict (by inference from studies of other aquatic che-
lonians 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 *Stau-
rotypus triporcatus* (Wiegmann) and *S. salcini* Gray probably con-
stitute 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. herrerai* Stejneger, *K. hirtipes* Wag-
ler, 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. angusti-
pons* 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* (nar-
row) and *pons* (bridge) meaning narrow bridged.

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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.


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