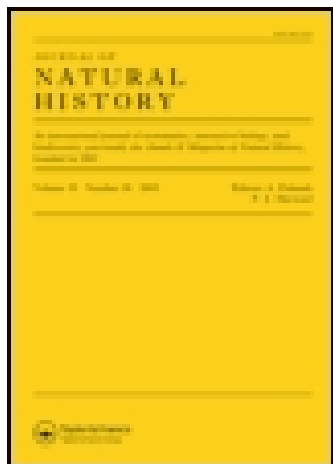


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XV.—On Euchelymys, a new genus and two new species of Australian Freshwater Tortoises

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maxillaries. The beak is rather broad at the base, but suddenly narrows and becomes one-third of its width, and tapers to a small point; the intermaxillaries and vomer, as seen in the palate, are linear. The lower jaw is attenuated in front, with a regular, angular gonys under the hinder part of the symphysis, which is elongate and one-third the entire length of the jaw in extent.

The differences of the skull are too great to depend on the age or sex of the specimens; and there is very great difference of size between the two animals, the one being 27 and the other only 9 feet long; and the most perfectly developed skull belongs to the smaller specimen. I therefore propose to give the name of *Berardius Hectori* to the smaller specimen of Dr. Hector, figured on plates 14 and 15 of the Trans. New Zeal. Inst. vol. iii. p. 128.

This skull has some affinity to the typical *Ziphius*, but is at once known to be a *Berardius* by the anterior position of the teeth.

P.S. Dr. Hector, in a note accompanying the third volume of the 'Transactions of the New Zealand Institute,' just received, observes:—"It is curious that the most commonly found Cetacean bone in the old alluvial deposit is the skull of *Berardius*, although now so rare. I have seen six subfossil, and only heard of three in the recent state, including that mentioned by Dr. Haast and the one that is, or was, in Paris. They are usually dug up and sent as Moa skulls! Not long ago I was made referee in a controversy on this subject between the newspapers."

XV.—On *Euchelymys*, a new Genus and two new Species of Australian Freshwater Tortoises. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

In my paper on "Australian Tortoises" in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' 1856, p. 371, and in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for 1863, vol. xii. p. 98, I mentioned there being two distinct varieties of *Chelymys macquaria*, both having a distinct nuchal shield.

Having had occasion to examine some specimens of Tortoises in spirits in the Museum for the purpose of identification, I found that what had been considered a variety of *C. macquaria* were provided with a distinct pair of beards in front of the chin; and on more carefully examining the stuffed specimen we received in 1856 from Mr. Stutchbury, I found it

had the same peculiarity, which had been overlooked in the dried state. The three specimens in the Museum (one in spirit, another stuffed, and a third a thorax only) all agree in colour, sculpture, and general external appearance, and are certainly a species which I did not distinguish, and combining the characters of *Chelymys* and *Elseya*. I propose to name the group

EUCHELYMYS.

Thorax convex, solid; cavity contracted in front; nuchal shield narrow, well developed; vertebral shields broad, the fifth as broad as or broader than the others; marginal shields dilated behind. Head covered with continuous skin and a hard smooth surface behind; temples and over the ears with numerous small polygonal plates; chin with two distinct beards. Fore legs with large transverse scales in front, and with keeled scales on the outer margin. Upperside of neck more or less warty.

This genus is known from *Chelymys* by its having two distinct beards, by the harder crown to the head, and by the size of the fifth vertebral plate, which in *Chelymys* is scarcely as broad as the other vertebral ones.

Euchelymys sulcifera.

Dark olive-brown, marbled with white below; vertebral shields irregularly longitudinally sulcated, with a central continued longitudinal groove; neck dark olive, with a white streak from the angle of the mouth under the ear on each side, slightly warty above; crown of the head covered with a smooth skin; occiput not broader than the temples, with an oval smooth plate on each side.

Chelymys macquaria, var., Gray, *P. Z. S.* 1856, p. 371; *Ann. & Mag. N. H.* 1863, xii. p. 98; *Suppl. Cat. Shield Reptiles*, p. 75.

Hab. North Australia (*Stutchbury*, 1856).

Euchelymys spinosa.

Thorax brown varied with black above, pale brown marbled with black beneath; head and neck olive; upper surface of neck darker, with rows of large, elongate, conical spines; crown hard, rather irregularly grooved; occiput dilated behind, broader than the temples, hard and polished.

Hab. North Australia (1866).

This species is very different from the former in the large size of the head, covered above with a hard horny surface, and in the back of the neck being so distinctly spinose.