REPTILIA: TESTUDINES: KINOSTERNIDAE

Sternotherus odoratus (Latreille)

Stinkpot

Testudo odorata Latreille, in Sonnini and Latreille, 1802:122. Type-locality, "les eaux dormantes de la Caroline"; restricted to "vicinity of Charleston [Charleston County], South Carolina" by Schmidt (1953:87). Type specimen undesignated.


Emys odorata: Schweigger, 1812:313.

Emys glutinosa: Merrem, 1820:27.


Terrapene carolina: Say, 1825:206.

Cistudo odorata: Gray, 1825:211. First use of combination.

Sternoptychus odoratus: Bell, 1825:307.

Clemmys glutinata: Rütgen, 1828:272.


Kinosternon odoratum: Gray, 1831b:35.

Didelophorus odoratus: Rafinesque, 1832:64.

Staurotis odoratus: Dumeril and Bibron, 1835:358.


Terrapene carolina: Gray, 1835:46.

Testudo glutinosa: Agassiz, 1837:425.

Osteolaemus odoratus: Agassiz, 1837:425.

Osteolaemus trigonatum Agassiz, 1857:425. Type-localities, "Osage River, in Missouri, and in Williamsson County, in Texas . . . near San Antonio, . . . Medina River, in Texas"; restricted to "San Antonio [Bexar County], Texas" by Schmidt (1953:87). Synonyms: Missouri, Mus. Comp. Zool. 1576 (two adult males); Texas, Mus. Comp. Zool. 1574 (one male and three females); U.S. Nat. Mus. (juveniles) 69, 71–72, San Pedro near San Antonio, Bexar County, collected by Dr. C. B. R. Kennerly; U.S. Nat. Mus. 7890, Medina River, Texas, collected by Dr. C. B. R. Kennerly (all syntypes examined by authors).

Aromochelys guttata: Strauch, 1862:39.


Cinosternum odoratum: Boulenger, 1889:37.

- CONTENT. Sternotherus odoratus is monotypic.

- DEFINITION. Adults of both sexes are 89-136 mm in carapace length. The olive to black adult carapace is elongate, narrow and rounded in cross section; however, it may be arched with a slight median keel, flattened middorsally or have a pair of lateral keels. The carapace margin is unserrated. There are 23 marginals including the cervical, the 10th and 11th are almost twice as high as the 9th. The yellowish to brown adult plastron has exposed skin along the interplastral seams, and a single inconspicuous hinge between the pectoral and abdominal scutes. There is a single gular scute. The bridge is covered by the axillary, inguinal and lateral extensions of abdominal scutes. The head has two white or yellow stripes on each side, extending posteriorly from the nostrils above and below the eye to the neck. These stripes may be obscure in older individuals. One or two pairs of barbels are present on the chin. The skin is grayish-olive to black and may have a mottled appearance. Males are distinguished by having a long thick tail ending in a terminal nail, two small patches of tuberculate scales on the inner surface of each crus and thigh, extensive exposed skin between the interplastral seams, and the anal vent extended beyond the posterior edge of the carapace.

- DISTRIBUTION. Sternotherus odoratus ranges from southeastern Canada and southern Wisconsin southward through Florida and southwest to central Texas, including eastern Iowa, Missouri, eastern Kansas and eastern Oklahoma. An old, presumably valid, record exists for Sauz, Chihuahua, Mexico (Moll and Williams, 1963), however, the present status of S. odoratus in Mexico needs study.

- FOSSIL RECORD. Pliocene fossils are from Claredon, Trego County, Kansas (Holman, 1973). Pleistocene records are from: Clear Creek local fauna, Sangamon, Denton County, Texas (Holman, 1963); Vero, Wisconsin, Indian River County, Florida (Weigel, 1962).

— 1971a. Buoyancy, locomotion, morphology of the pelvic gir-

— 1971b. American musk turtles, Sternothaerus or Sternoth-
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