

The mobility of the fore part of the sternum is extremely variable and depends on the amount of ossification which has taken place near the transverse suture, but no joint is developed. Not less variable is the width of the inguinal bridge, which is sometimes not even the same on either side of the same individual. With regard to coloration, every degree of transition occurs from a finely mottled head to one of uniform coloration without any spots.

This species is so closely allied to *Staurotypus triporcatus* that some difficulty exists in referring young examples to either of these two species. Young examples of *S. triporcatus* do not seem to possess the very broad front part of the sternum by which the old ones are distinguished. Therefore in maintaining for the present the genus *Claudius*, I cannot follow Cope in including in it his *C. severus*, but restrict it to *C. angustatus*, for which it was originally formed, although the characters assigned to it seem to me scarcely sufficient to justify a distinct generic appellation.

### CLAUDIUS.

*Claudius*, Cope, Proc. Ac. N. Sc. Phil. 1865, p. 185.

#### 1. *Claudius angustatus*.

*Claudius angustatus*, Cope, Proc. Ac. N. Sc. Phil. 1865, p. 187 ; 1872, p. 28 ; Proc. Am. Phil. Soc. 1869, t. 9 ; Dum. et Bocourt, Miss. Sc. Mex., Rept. p. 20, t. 4.

*Claudius megaloccephalus*, Bocourt, Ann. Sc. Nat. Zool. 1868, p. 122 ; Cope, Proc. Ac. N. Sc. Phil. 1872, p. 27.

*Hab.* MEXICO, Tabasco (*Cope*).

Called "Talmame" by the natives. Carnivorous.

### CINOSTERNUM.

*Cinosternum*, Spix, Test. et Ran. Bras. p. 17 (1824).

Of the twelve or thirteen species known of this genus, not less than nine are peculiar to the Central-American fauna, one only occupying territories in the South, and two or three \* in the North. The distinction of the species is a difficult task ; and it is still more difficult to select distinctive characters from the lengthy descriptions by authors who notice the most variable details. The shape of the shell, of the individual scutes, of the beak, tail, the width of the hinder sternal lobe are all variable individually, as well as according to sex and age. In the following synopsis I have admitted such characters only as may be more or less fully relied upon.

\* It is not within the scope of this work to investigate the question whether *Cinosternon hippocrepis* of Gray and *Platythyra flavescens* of Agassiz are identical or not, as there is no evidence of either occurring within the limits of Mexico.