

Herpetology.

LIST OF REPTILIA OF ONTARIO.

To Reptiles that I have not seen, or those reported to me on good authority, I have affixed a mark of interrogation (?). All the others I have recognized, and they are in my cabinet. I do not consider this list by any means perfect, and other forms will doubtless be added by scientific research. I solicit exchange from Herpetologists in the Dominion, and neighboring States of America, as I have a fine lot of Ontario duplicates in the best condition for this purpose. I wish to obtain reptilia, of all classes, from the Province of Quebec, as the difference of climate is of great importance in regard to colouration. This is remarkable in the genus *Eutania*; whose geographical distribution, with other causes, seem to exert an extraordinary influence in regard to tintings and colouration, not alone in Canada, but wherever they occur. There is, perhaps, no branch of natural history less studied in a scientific manner than Herpetology. Here we have an enormous field for research, and scientific enquiry, and Ontario seems as rich in species and genera as any other country of similar extent.

I. — TESTUDINATA.

Family EMYDIDÆ.

- 1—*Chelopus insculptus*. Wood Tortoise. Common.
- 2—*Nanemys gutatus*. Speckled Tortoise. Common.
- 3—*Emys melegris*. Blanding's Tortoise. Very rare. One specimen captured on Lake St. Clair, by Mr. Buck. Now in my cabinet.
- 4—*Chrysemys picta*. Painted Turtle. Common along the southern shore of Lake Ontario, and in every pond to the south. The most handsome turtle.
- 5—*P. var. marginata*. I have a variety that approaches that described by Jordan.
- 6—*Malacoclemys geographicus*. Map Turtle.

7—*M. pseudo-geographicus*. This is merely a variety, noticeable in the carapace, and seems to be a distinction without a difference.

8—*Aromochelys odoratus*. Musk Turtle. Stink pot; found in Lakes Erie, and St. Clair; rare.

9—*Chelydra serpentina*. Snapping Turtle. Found throughout Ontario. Used for making soup, and in some localities much sought after for this purpose.

10—*Aspidonectes spinifer*. Common Soft-shell Turtle. Lakes Erie and St. Clair, scarce; sometimes taken on hooks. Considered a delicacy. One was taken some years ago, in the Ottawa River.—*Ed.*, rare.

11—*Amyda mutica* (?) Leathery Turtle. Although I never saw this species, yet there is no doubt that it exists as frequently as the preceding in Lakes Erie and St. Clair.

II. — LACERTILIA.

Family SCINCIDÆ.

- 12—*Eumeces fasciatus*. Blue tailed Skink.
- 13—*E. septentrionalis*. Northern Skink.
- 14—*E. anthracinus*. Coal Skink. I captured these in Tilberry township, Co. Kent. They may be considered the same species; the young being the darkest. Specimens I possess from North Carolina of *E. anthracinus*, and the others are not distinguishable from my specimens from Tilberry.

III. — OPHIDIA.

Family COLUBRIDÆ.

- 15—*Heterodon platyrhinus*, var. *niger*. Hog-nosed Snake. Blowing viper. Puff-adder. Captured near Toronto by Prof. Montgomery. A well marked specimen, though small; also reported near Port Hope and other places.
- 16—*Nerodia sipedon*. Water Snake. Water Adder. Black Water Snake; common.
- 17—*N. erythrogaster*. Red-billed Water-snake. This is a scarce species. Lake St. Clair.
- 18—*N. niger*. Black Water Adder, B. & G. I deem it to be the male of the *sipedon*, and it is now generally rejected as a species.
- 19—*Regina rigida*. Stiff Snake. Rare. Captured by Mr. Buck, at Mud creek, Lake St. Clair.