

A NEW GENUS AND SPECIES OF TURTLE, FROM
NORTH AUSTRALIA.

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(Plates xxvi-xxvii.)

The Trustees have recently received from Mr. Hugh W. Christie, Lighthouse-keeper at Point Charles, a small turtle 153 mm. long, captured near Port Darwin, North Australia. While entering the family Cheloniidæ it is apparently distinct from any of the three genera at present known, and I therefore propose for it the name *Natator*. We know nothing either of its habits or food, and as it is a unique specimen I have been unable to examine its skull.

It is most nearly related to *Chelonia*, and judging by the similar form of its upper jaw, which is not hooked, is doubtless herbivorous. From that genus, however, it is separated by the different arrangement of the shields of the head, and the distinctly paired nuchal. Also the upper shields of both head and body have each a large symmetrical areola placed rather behind their centres.

Eretmochelys is distinguished by its hooked jaws and the two pairs of prefrontal shields, while *Caretta* has five or more pairs of costal shields.

NATATOR,¹ *gen. nov.*

Head and carapace covered with horny shields, each with distinct symmetrical areolæ; nuchal shield divided into two, each half having its own areola; five vertebrae, and four pairs of costals; twelve pairs of marginals. Plastron as in *Chelonia*, with a well developed intergular. Head with a pair of large prefrontals; frontal in contact with the prefrontals and a pair of large supraoculars; parietal shield very large and followed by a single post-parietal; two pairs of temporals. Upper jaw not hooked. Limbs paddle-shaped, with one claw each.

¹*Natator*—a swimmer.