

ON THE STATUS OF CHELONIA DEPRESSA, Garman

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(Plates xix-xxii., and Figs. 38-49.)

The recent species of marine turtles represent the few surviving forms of a once flourishing group, which reached its zenith probably in late Mesozoic times. There no longer exist such gigantic and diversified monsters as *Archelon*, *Protostega*, and *Miolania*, but such a uniformity of structure prevails that only four allied genera are admitted. It is natural that three of these, which occasionally visit the European coasts, should have been known to Linnæus, but it is surprising that the remaining two, *Colpochelys kempii*, Garman, and *Chelonia depressa*, Garman, should have remained unknown to naturalists till comparatively recently, showing that even now we cannot safely consider our knowledge of the marine turtles as complete.

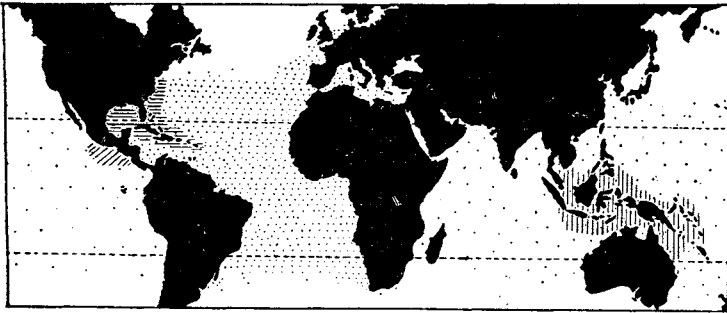


Fig. 38.—Map showing the areas from which the various marine turtles have been recorded. The true habitats are rather more restricted. The thickly dotted area shows the distribution of *Chelonia mydas*, *Caretta caretta*, and *Eretmochelys imbricata*. The sparsely dotted region = *Chelonia japonica*, *Caretta olivacea*, and *Eretmochelys squamosa*. Horizontal stræ = *Colpochelys kempii*. Perpendicular stræ = *Chelonia depressa*. Oblique stræ = *Caretta remivaga*. (a supposed species needing confirmation).

Of the five¹ marine turtles, the Green, Hawksbill, and Loggerhead are almost cosmopolitan in habitat, the other two being peculiarly restricted (fig. 38). *Colpochelys kempii* is recorded only from the Gulf of Mexico and as far north as

¹ A sixth species of turtle has been described by Dr. Hay (Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., xxxiv., 1908, p. 194, pl. x., fig. 1-3, pl. xi., fig. 5) as *Caretta remivaga*, from the Gulf of Tehuantepec, Western Coast of Mexico. It is founded on two skulls, one of which was earlier referred by Dr. Baur (Amer. Nat., xxiv., 1809, p. 487) to *Lepidochelys olivacea*, Esch., and it certainly needs confirmation.