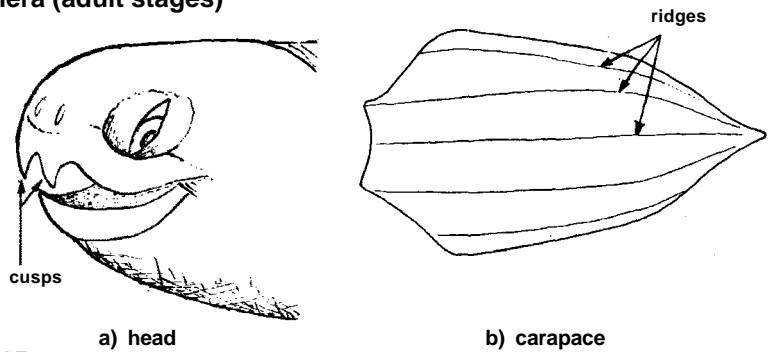


2. SYSTEMATIC CATALOGUE

2.1 Illustrated key to Families and Genera (adult stages)

1a. Body without horny scutes. covered by leathery skin, small scales present only in hatchlings; carapace with 5 dorsal longitudinal ridges (Fig. 15b); upper tomium with a pair of frontal cusps (Fig. 15a). Choanae open in two separate apertures on anterior half of palate. Patches of papillary projections arranged in rows on palate and floor of mouth and in throat (Fig. 16a). Flippers without visible claws ..... FAMILY **DERMOCHELYDAE**

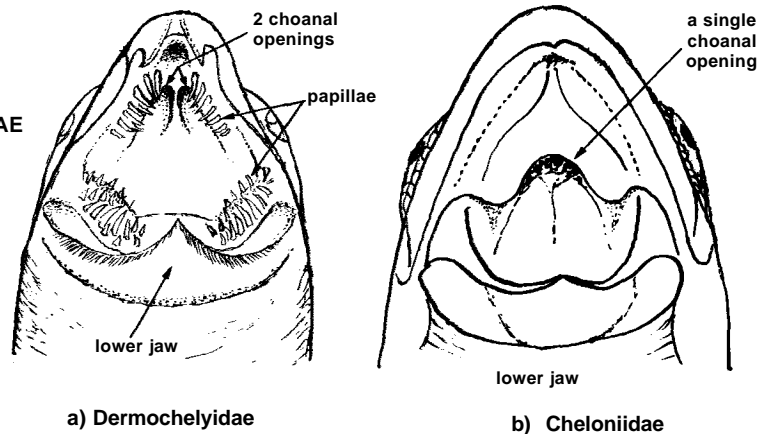
(*Dermochelys*)



*Dermochelys*

Fig.15

1b. Scutes covering carapace and plastron; scales present on head and flippers. Choanae open in a single aperture on the rear half of palate (Fig.16b). Papillary projections absent in mouth, but present in the throat. Flippers with one or two developed claws ..... FAMILY **CHELONIIDAE**



a) *Dermochelyidae*

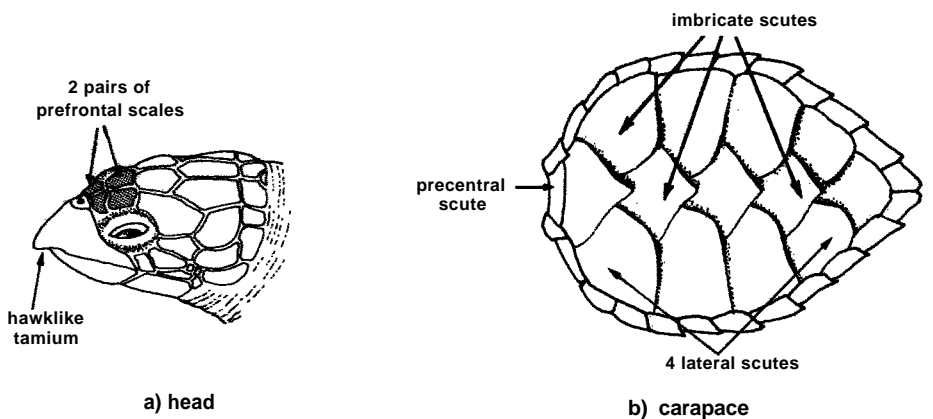
b) *Cheloniidae*

ventral view of head (mouth open)

Fig.16

2a. Carapace with 4 lateral scutes on each side. the first pair not in contact with the precentral scute (Figs 17, 18, 19)

3a. Carapace elliptical, covered by imbricate scutes (Fig. 15b) except in very old individuals. Head narrow, with two pairs of prefrontal scales; tomium hawklike, not serrated (Fig. 17a). Flippers usually with two evident claws ..... *Eretmochelys*



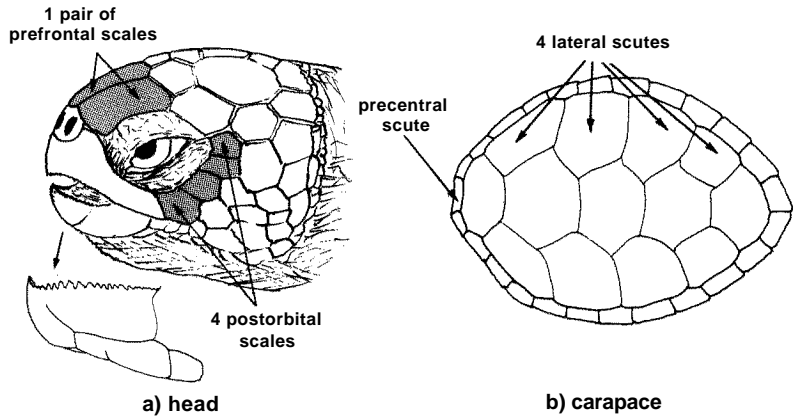
a) head

b) carapace

*Eretmochelys*

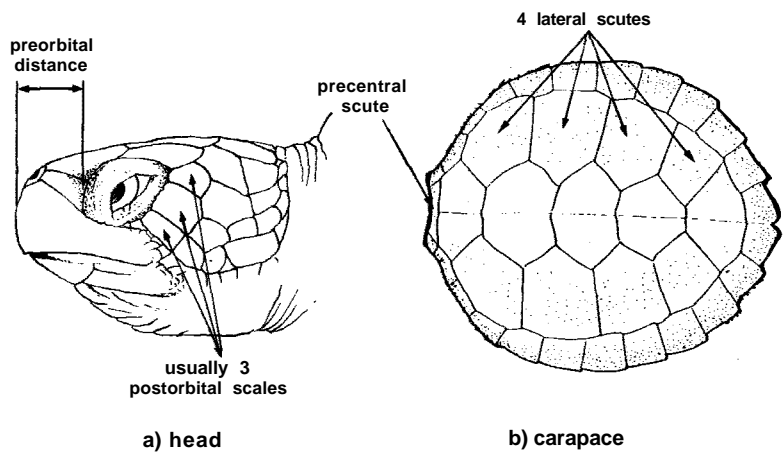
Fig.17

3b. Carapace nearly oval, with no imbricate scutes (18b). Head blunt (short snout), the preorbital distance clearly smaller than orbital length; a single pair of prefrontal scales, usually 4 postorbital scales; tomium serrated (Fig. 18a). Flippers usually with only one evident claw ..... **Chelonia**



**Chelonia** Fig.18

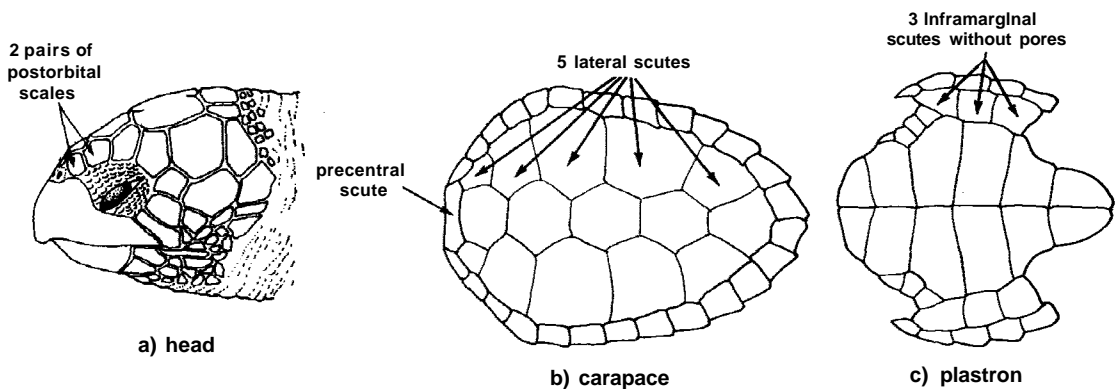
3c. Carapace nearly round and flattened, with slightly upward-folded margins, covered by rather thin, non-imbricate scutes, waxy to touch (Fig 19b); preorbital distance nearly equal to orbital length; a single pair of prefrontal scales, usually 3 postorbital scales; tomium not serrated (Fig. 19a). Flippers with one evident claw ..... **Natator**



**Natator** Fig.19

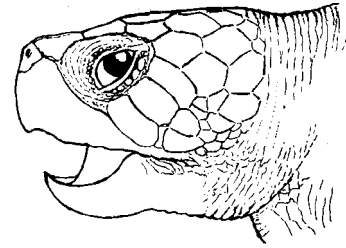
2b. Carapace with 5 lateral scutes on each side, the first pair in contact with the precentral scute (Figs 20,21)

4a. Carapace cardiform, its length always greater than the width (Fig.20b). Plastron usually with 3 pairs of inframarginal scutes, generally without pores (fig. 20c). Carapace scutes thick and rough to touch. Head relatively large, with a heavy and strong tomium lacking an internal alveolar rim (Fig. 20a). Body colour usually reddish-brown or yellowish-brown ..... **Caretta**

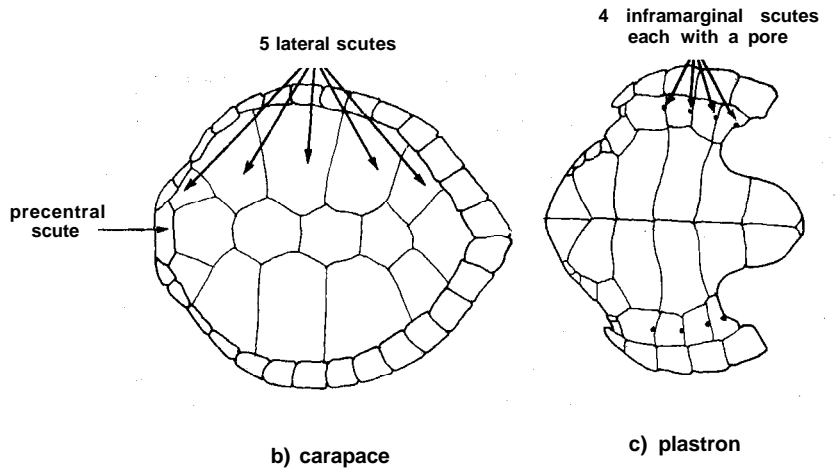


**Caretta** Fig.20

4b. Carapace nearly round, its length similar to the width (Fig. 21b). Plastron usually with 4 pairs of pored inframarginal scutes (Fig. 21c). Carapace scutes smooth to touch. Head moderately small, with a cutting tomium provided with an internal alveolar rim (Figs 5, 21a). Body colour grey-olive or olive-yellowish ..... *Lepidochelys*



a) head



b) carapace

c) plastron

*Lepidochelys*

Fig.21