OCCASIONAL PAPERS OF THE MUSEUM OF ZOOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN PRESS

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW KINOSTERNID FROM YUCATAN

By NORMAN HARTWEG

While carrying on biological investigations for the Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, during the summer of 1932, Dr. Edwin P. Creaser made a collection of reptiles and amphibians, among which was a series of nine turtles of the genus *Kinosternon* of a species hitherto undescribed. It is a pleasure to associate Dr. Creaser's name with the new species.

Kinosternon creaseri, sp. nov.

DIAGNOSIS.—Beak greatly developed; head large; anterior lobe of plastron longer than the fixed portion.

Type Specimen.—Male, Cat. No. 73090, Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan; one mile south of the Hacienda, Chichen Itza, Yucatan; June 29, 1932; Edwin P. Creaser, collector.

DESCRIPTION OF TYPE.—Head large; posterior border of head shield extending directly from orbit to orbit; lower jaw short and thick; upper jaw very strongly hooked; beak nearly vertical in profile. Carapace with a slight trace of a median keel; posterior end of carapace nearly vertical in profile. Plastron long and wide, nearly closing the box, not emarginate posteriorly; anterior lobe longer than fixed portion; gular

more than one-half the length of the anterior lobe; axillary and inguinal barely in contact. Tail ending in a clawlike horny scute. No postfemoral tuberculated patches.

Carapace dark brown. Plastron yellowish-brown, sutures darker. Head and neck black above with fine lighter dots barely discernible; sides of head and neck somewhat lighter; under surface of neck whitish-gray with spots and specks of black. Jaws brownish with fine darker streaks.

Length of carapace, 118.5 mm.

REMARKS.—The paratypes are three females, one male, and four juveniles; the carapace lengths range from 30 to 120 mm. The only marked difference between the type and the other adults is that the beak is not so well developed in the females.

This species seems to be related most closely to Kinosternon berendtianum Cope, which it probably supplants in Yucatan. It differs chiefly in the larger size attained, the proportionately larger head, the more powerful jaw, the great development of the beak, the proportionately greater length of the anterior lobe of the plastron, and the more subdued color arrangements of the head and neck.

All of the specimens were collected in the vicinity of Chichen Itza.