

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY  
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A NEW SPECIES OF TRIONYCHID TURTLE,  
*AMYDA NELSONI*, FROM THE EOCENE  
BEDS OF SOUTHWESTERN WYOMING

BY  
E. C. CASE



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
ANN ARBOR

# AIIM SCANNER TEST CHART # 2

## Spectra

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## Times Roman

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## Century Schoolbook Bold

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## News Gothic Bold Reversed

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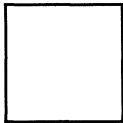
## Bodoni Italic

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## Greek and Math Symbols

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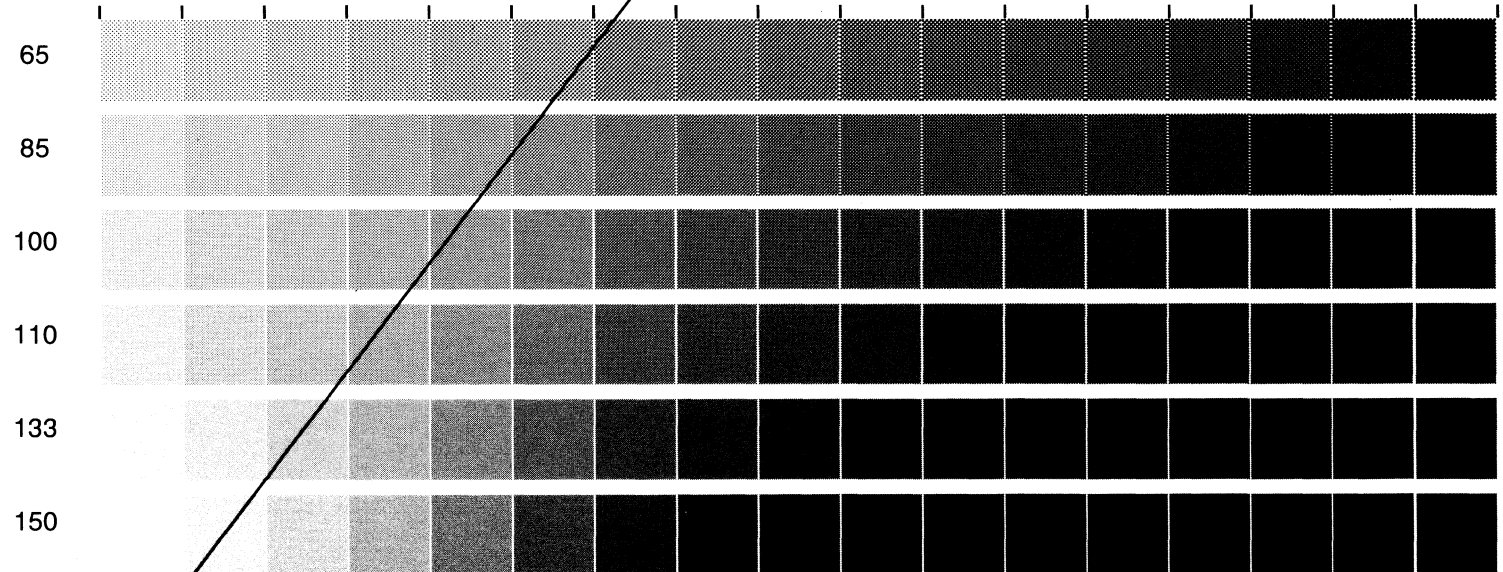
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Isolated Characters


e	m	1	2	3	a
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8	9	0	h	l	B

## MESH HALFTONE WEDGES



MEMORIAL DRIVE, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14623

RIT ALPHANUMERIC RESOLUTION TEST OBJECT, RT-171



032E P  
1253  
223E  
33EB  
4525  
5523  
62E5



700 950 1100 1200 1300 1400 1500 1600 1700 1800 1900 2000 2100 2200 2300 2400 2500 2600 2700 2800 2900 3000 3100 3200 3300 3400 3500 3600 3700 3800 3900 4000 4100 4200 4300 4400 4500 4600 4700 4800 4900 5000 5100 5200 5300 5400 5500 5600 5700 5800 5900 6000 6100 6200 6300 6400 6500 6600 6700 6800 6900 7000 7100 7200 7300 7400 7500 7600 7700 7800 7900 8000 8100 8200 8300 8400 8500 8600 8700 8800 8900 9000 9100 9200 9300 9400 9500 9600 9700 9800 9900 10000 10100 10200 10300 10400 10500 10600 10700 10800 10900 11000 11100 11200 11300 11400 11500 11600 11700 11800 11900 12000 12100 12200 12300 12400 12500 12600 12700 12800 12900 13000 13100 13200 13300 13400 13500 13600 13700 13800 13900 14000 14100 14200 14300 14400 14500 14600 14700 14800 14900 15000 15100 15200 15300 15400 15500 15600 15700 15800 15900 16000 16100 16200 16300 16400 16500 16600 16700 16800 16900 17000 17100 17200 17300 17400 17500 17600 17700 17800 17900 18000 18100 18200 18300 18400 18500 18600 18700 18800 18900 19000 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CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE MUSEUM OF GEOLOGY

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Editor: EUGENE S. McCARTNEY

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(Continued on inside of back cover)

A NEW SPECIES OF TRIONYCHID TURTLE,  
*AMYDA NELSONI*, FROM THE EOCENE  
BEDS OF SOUTHWESTERN WYOMING

E. C. CASE

IN the summer of 1926 the author discovered the larger part of the skeleton of a large Trionychid turtle in the Eocene, Bridger, beds a few miles east of Granger, Wyoming. The parts recovered consist of the carapace with the exception of the distal ends of some of the ribs, the plastron with the exception of the left hypoplastron, and parts of the entoplastron, the pelvic arch with the exception of the distal ends of the ischia, the complete pectoral arch, the last dorsal and the two sacral vertebrae, and some of the foot bones and portions of the limb bones. This specimen, the holotype of the species, is No. 8393 of the collection in the Geological Museum of the University of Michigan.

The form of the carapace, plastron, and the arches is shown in the accompanying plate and text figures. This turtle approaches most closely to *Amyda salebrosa* Hay and *Amyda(?) exquiseta* Hay (pages 524 and 525, Publication 75 of the Carnegie Institution of Washington). From the first of these it differs in the more concave anterior border of its nuchal plate, the more rounded posterior border of the plastron, the lack of contraction of the distal portion of the first costal plate and the more regular pattern and larger size of the pits upon the surface of the carapace. The fourth neural resembles the third in outline and the fifth has both the anterior and posterior edges and the sides gently convex and not meeting in sharp angles. From *A. exquiseta* it differs in the more concave anterior border of its nuchal plate and in the general outline of this bone, in the slighter emargination of the posterior border of the carapace,

in the lack of contraction of the distal portions of the first costals, and in the greater extension of the ribs beyond the ends of the costals. The size and distribution pattern of the pits upon the surface of the carapace and the shape of the neural plates are very similar to *A. exquiseta*. The carapace of the specimen of *A. exquiseta* restored and figured by Hay was rather incomplete, and, except for the form of the first costal plate and the extension of the ribs beyond the costal plates, the

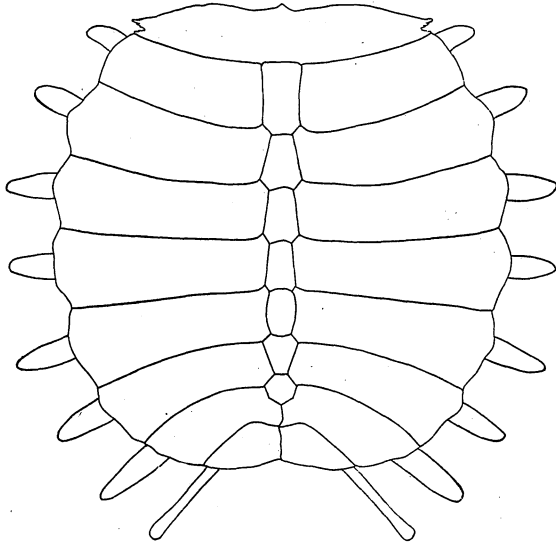


FIG. 1. Outline of the carapace of *Amyda nelsoni*.  $\times 1/6$

difference might be considered as due to individual variation or the imperfection of Hay's specimen.

Because of the imperfection of his specimen Hay was uncertain whether it should be placed in the genus *Amyda* or in the genus *Aspiderites*, but there can now be no doubt that there was no pre-neural plate and that he was correct in his assignment to the genus *Amyda*.

As mounted, the specimen of *A. nelsoni* shows the carapace complete and perfect with the exception of the distal ends of

some of the ribs, which were weathered out and not recovered; the length of all is shown from one side or the other with the exception of the last pair, which are incomplete. The left hypoplastron is restored entirely as the bone was weathered out and only fragments were recovered. Only the posterior portions of the entoplastron were recovered and the anterior median portion is restored. The right epiplastron is restored in part. The pectoral arch is placed as nearly as possible in the correct position; the bones were compressed between the carapace and

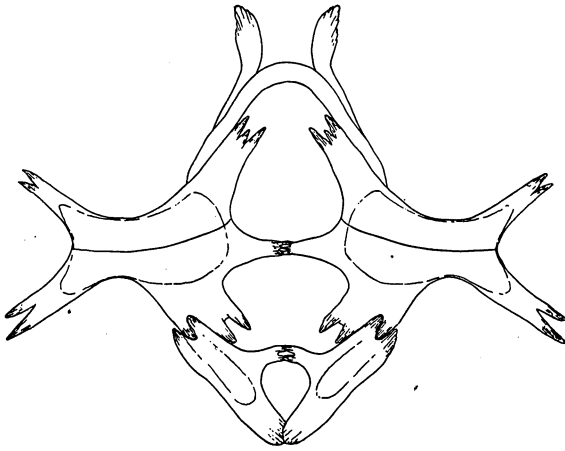


FIG. 2. Outline of the plastron of *Amyda nelsoni*.  $\times 1/6$

plastron and were somewhat distorted, but the position of the distal ends of the procoracoid processes of the scapulae is marked by circular scars on the lower side of the nuchal plate near the median line and with these points as guides the position of the arches is fairly certain. Only the distal portions of the very thin coracoids were destroyed by decay and have been restored.

The bones of the pelvic arch were also compressed and disarticulated, but with the exception of the distal ends of the ischia they are preserved nearly complete and the articular faces are so little distorted that they could be replaced in their natural

position. The limb bones are very similar to those of the living *Amyda* and the preserved phalanges indicate long feet with powerful claws.

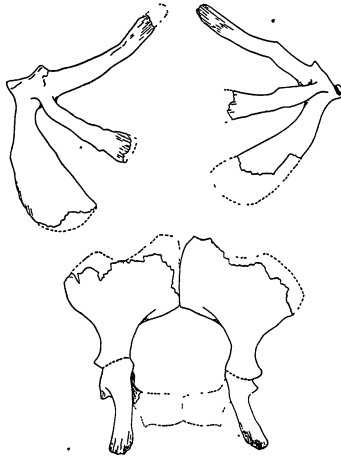


FIG. 3. Outline of the pectoral and pelvic girdles of *Amyda nelsoni*, figured as preserved and placed in proper position.  $\times 1/6$

Measurements:

Total length of the plastron without the ribs..... .368 Mm.  
 Total breadth of the plastron without the ribs..... .364

Neural plates	Length	Width
1	.068	.033
2	.046	.036
3	.046	.030
4	.043	.025
5	.037	.022
6	.033	.030
7	.025	.027
Width of the bridge of the plastron....	.048	

The species is named in recognition of the interest and help of Miss Theodora Nelson, a former student with the author.



PLATE I

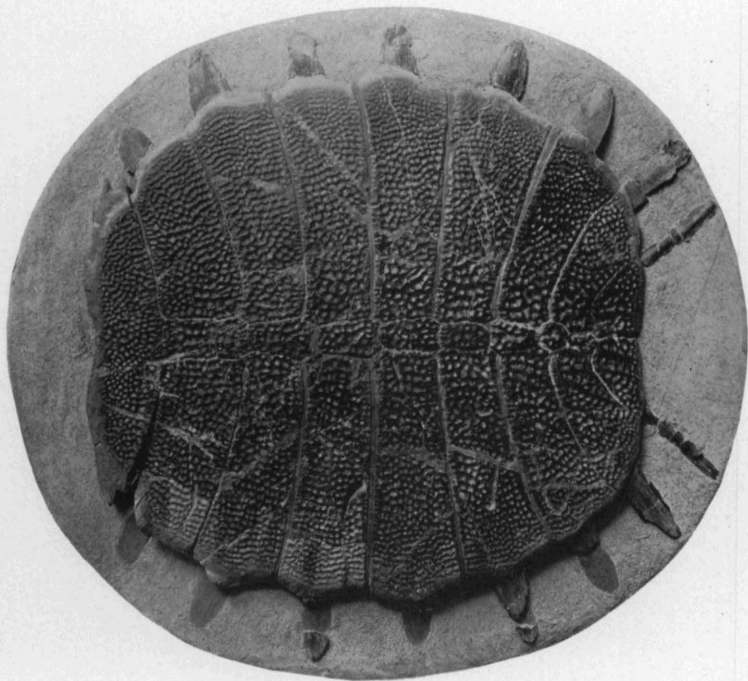


FIG. 1. Photograph of the carapace of *Amyda nelsoni*

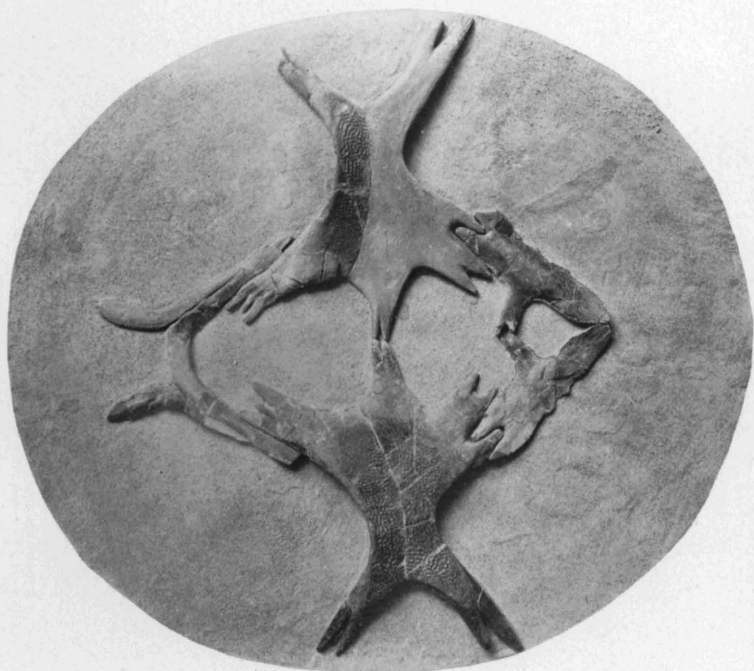


FIG. 2. Photograph of the plastron of *Amyda nelsoni*



(Continued from inside of front cover)

9. Devonian Cephalopods from Alpena in Michigan, by Aug. F. Foerste. Pages 189-208, with 5 plates. Price, \$.35.
10. The Vertebral Column of *Coelophys* Cope, by E. C. Case. Pages 209-222, with 1 plate and 9 text figures. Price, \$.25.
11. A New Species of Trionychid Turtle, *Amyda nelsoni*, from the Eocene Beds of Southwestern Wyoming, by E. C. Case. Pages 223-226, with 1 plate and 3 text figures. Price, \$.20.
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