

neural arch pedicles are not fused to the centra. The first three centra are platycoelous; the rest are prococleous. At the anterior end of the series the vertebrae are somewhat elongated and as high as wide. Posteriorly they become noticeably flattened and much wider than long. The last two or three centra are often fused and may lack transverse processes. Pre- and postzygapophyses are well developed throughout the series, with the exception of the last few fused members. The transverse processes are rarely firmly ankylosed to the pedicle-centrum suture area. In the most posterior 10 to 11 elements the transverse process is also in contact with the posterolateral corner of the preceding centrum. Adjacent transverse processes are often fused near the posterior end of the series. An interpostzygapophyseal notch is always present. The transverse processes are normal in length from the anterior part of the series to near the point of the base of the external tail. Here the processes are most elongated, decreasing rapidly in length to the terminus of the tail. If the terminal tips of the transverse processes are considered as an outline of the bony skeleton of the tail, the overall shape is broadly spatulate. Subcaudal dermal ossicles are often fused to the underside of the last 8 to 10 vertebrae. Differences observed in the caudal series of *Gopherus* (Recent and Pleistocene only) and the closely related genus *Stylemys* are as follows:

<i>Gopherus</i>	<i>Stylemys</i>
Interpostzygapophyseal notches present throughout series.	Interpostzygapophyseal notches usually absent from most vertebrae, and always absent from some of the middle members of the series.
Neural spine, boss, or keel absent from all caudal vertebrae.	Neural spine, boss, or keel absent from only the anterior caudal vertebrae.
Post- and prezygapophyseal articular surfaces normal, separated, distinct.	Post- and prezygapophyseal articular surfaces transversely elongate, often continuous.

Unfortunately, the tail tip in *Stylemys* remains unknown. I have found no significant interspecific differences among the extant populations of the genus *Gopherus*.

HUMERUS

The humerus of *Gopherus* is like that of most other testudinid turtles. Proximal condyle round, rarely slightly compressed vertically; shaft slightly compressed, noticeably bent in the middle. Distal end compressed anterolaterally, broadly widened laterally. Medial proximal tu-