

ences between fossil species of a single genus that can be accepted as commensurate with the definition must vary with the investigator, the trend of the times, and the nature of the specific group being studied. As the criteria for recognizing full species in fossils are not yet standardized, it is impossible to be absolutely consistent in the definition of both fossil and Recent genera, subgenera, or species.

(7) Every extinct taxon is preceded by the symbol †.

(8) The present interpretation of the homonym rule requires that the names of two tortoises are affected as follows:

A. *Gopherus †depressus* Brattstrom (1961), Miocene of California.

Testudo depressa Guerin-Meneville (1828) (= *Gopherus polyphemus*), Recent of southeastern United States.

Gopherus †depressus Brattstrom is here renamed *Gopherus †brattstromi* in honor of its discoverer.

B. *Hadrianus †robustus* Gilmore (1915), Uinta Eocene, Utah (= *Geochelone* [*Hadrianus*] *†robusta*).

Testudo †robusta Leith-Adams (1877), Pleistocene Malta (= *Geochelone* [*Geochelone*] *†robusta*).

Hadrianus †robustus Gilmore is here renamed *Geochelone †gilmorei* in honor of its discoverer.

(9) Species groupings and subgeneric categories of tortoises rest on fairly secure bases; above this uncertainties increase. Placing almost all of these groups in the genus *Testudo*, as is most often done, does not in my opinion reflect the apparent fact that the homogeneity of tortoises is due to similar trends in several phyletic lines. Therefore the classification of Williams (1952) and Loveridge and Williams (1957), rather than the more recent but conservative treatment of Wermuth and Mertens (1961), is followed.

(10) Under most generic and species accounts a section headed "Remarks" includes literature citations to important publications as well as comments on presumed relationships. No attempt has been made to include every reference to fossil tortoises—only those that seem most important for purposes of this checklist.

(11) Genera not represented by fossils are briefly diagnosed with pertinent remarks appended.

(12) To bring this work to completion no publications were included that appeared after 1 January 1972.

ZOOGEOGRAPHY AND ECOLOGY

The family Emydidae probably has the widest distribution of all the nonmarine turtle families. The family Testudinidae (the true tortoises) has a more restricted distributional pattern. It is here regarded as being represented by at least 16 genera, 10 of which are still living. Of the extant genera 5 are Ethiopian endemics (*Psammobates*, *Malachochersus*, *Chersine*, *Kinixys*, and *Homopus*), 2 are confined to Madagascar (*Acinixys* and *Pyxis*), 1 is widely distributed throughout the southern Palearctic (*Testudo*), and 1 is restricted to the southern Nearctic (*Gopherus*). The remaining genus, *Geochelone*, is the largest, being represented at least within historic times by about 19 species. It is distributed throughout much of Africa south of the Sahara, Madagascar, several smaller islands in the western Indian Ocean, extreme southeastern Asia, including some of the East Indian islands, extreme southern Central America, most of South America east of the Andes, some of the Leeward Islands in the