

CARAPACE AND PLASTRON OF KACHUGA AND TRIONIX

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Armature of Turtle

Turtles have a shell consisting of a dorsally arched **carapace** and a ventral flattened **plastron**, the two are united by lateral bridges which are cut through to expose the internal surfaces of the armature. Carapace, plastron and lateral bridges consist of large dermal plates which are covered by broad quadrilateral sheets of horny epidermis, the **corneoscutes**.

Epidermal scutes, on the carapace are in 3 groups-neurals (median) 5, costals (lateral) 4 pairs and marginals 25, including the anteromedial nuchal and posterior pygals. Marginals are continued on the ventral side of carapace. Scutes over the lateral bridges are called inframarginals. Scutes on the plastron are paired gulars, humerals, pectorals, abdominals, femorals and anals.

Dermal plates- of the carapace meet in immovable sutures and are in three groups, best visible on the internal surface of the shell;

(a) the median row including nuchal, 9 vertebrae and 2 precaudals;

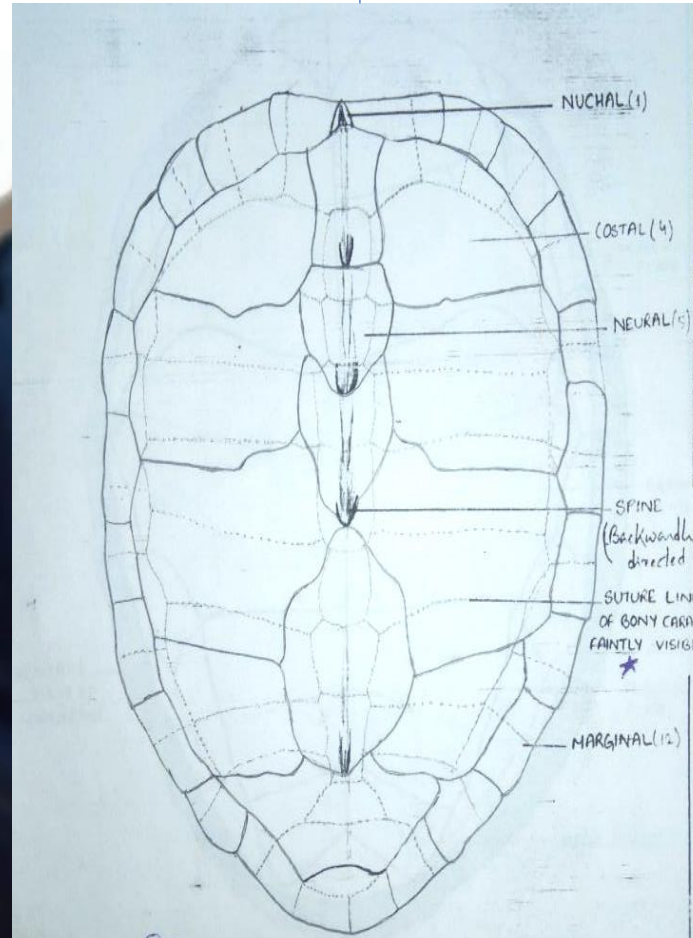
(b) the lateral series of 8 costal plates each united with the vertebra' rib;

(c) the marginals, including a pygal.

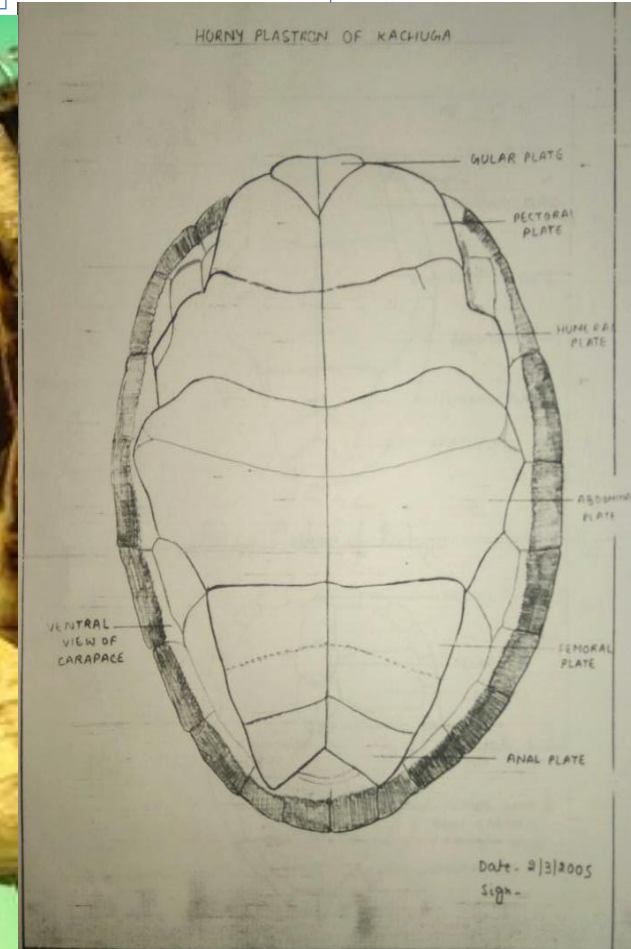
peripherals

Dermal plates of plastron on its internal face are paired epiplastrons, median entoplastron, paired hyoplastrons, paired hypoplastrons and paired xiphiplastrons.

CARAPACE OF KACHUGA



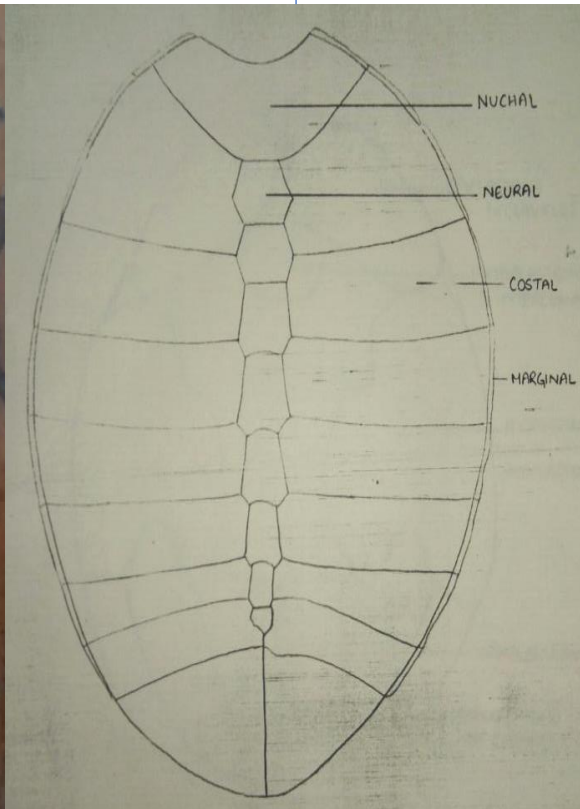
PLASTRON OF KACHUGA



Solid lines- Horny
Dotted Lines -Bony

- Skeletons of Testudines are the most unique skeletons of any other type of reptile, because of the presence of a shell structure. The shell structure is formed by two main skeletal structures, the **carapace** and the **plastron**.
- The **carapace** is formed of broadly expanded and fused ribs and vertebrae in the trunk region, as well as a layer of dermal bones that span the spaces between these bones.
- The **plastron** is composed of several paired bones that are remnants of the sternal elements and perhaps the gastralia. Positioned within the shell structure are the pectoral girdle and forelimb, and the pelvic girdle and hind limb.

BONY CARAPACE OF TRIONIX



BONY CARAPACE OF TRIONIX

