

Principal living species (adult > 50 cm long)	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	<i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	<i>Caretta caretta</i>
Lateral fontanelle/processus hyoplastral at base length	>	>	<< (> in young of 14 cm plastral length, and = at 20 cm)	>
Central/lateral fontanelles length	>	>	>	>>
Central fontanelle width	> lateral < processus	> lateral > processus	< lateral << processus	< lateral > processus
Epiplastra anteriorly	wide short symphysis or long protruded	wide, short symphysis, few protruded or not	short to long rounded symphysis or long protruded	short symphysis or long, protruded or not
Entoplastron, lateral incurvation	not incurved	not incurved	few incurved	few incurved
Number of neurals	9 or 10 (double first)	9	up to 13	7 to 9 (separations)
Quadrangular neural	First	First	First	First
Suprapygals	2 or 3	2	2 or 3	2 or 3
Dorsal adult fontanelles	moderate	moderate	no (early filled)	reduced or filled
Number of peripherals and marginals pairs	11	11	12 (double 2d) 6 pairs of pleurals	12 (double 2d) 6 pairs of pleurals
Sagittal carina	barely young, rounded adult	yes young, but diminish- ing in adult	yes young, diminish- ing in adult,	yes young, diminishing in adult
Thoracic rib 9 below the costal 8 reaching peripheral: – free peripheral without rib contact	reaching per 11. Per 9– (or no per: limit 9–10 rib 8 con- tact)	reaching per 11. Per 9– (or no per: limit 9–10 rib 8 con- tact –)	reaching per 12. Per 10	reaching per 12. Per 10
Particularity, besides a shared narrower anterior protrusion of the carapace	hypoplastral lateral processes in two sets; shorter more rounded xiphoplastral ends	wide epiplastra at symphysis posterior extremity, with strong narrowing in front	earlier in size filled dorsal and hyo-hypoplastral fontanelles – and often xiphoplastral, narrow vertebrals V1–V4	narrow vertebrals V1–V4
Adult shell length	> 50 cm (91–122)	> 50 cm (ca. 100 cm)	> 50 cm (55–80 cm +?)	> 50 cm (80–114 cm or +)
Particular shell bone orna- mentation	no – common marine one: bifurcated sulci, marked long polygons	no – common marine one	no – common marine one	no – common marine one