

| Principal living species (adult \gg 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 | > | > | \ll (> in young of 14 cm plastral length, and = at 20 cm) | > |
| Central/lateral fontanelles length | > | > | > | \gg |
| Central fontanelle width | > lateral < processus | > lateral > processus | < lateral \ll < 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 diminishing in adult | yes young, diminishing 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 contact) | reaching per 11. Per 9– (or no per: limit 9–10 rib 8 contact – | 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 xiphiplastral ends | wide epiplastra at symphysis posterior extremity, with strong narrowing in front | earlier in size filled dorsal and hyo-hyoplastral fontanelles – and often xiphiplastral, 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 ornamentation | no – common marine one: bifurcated sulci, marked long polygons | no – common marine one | no – common marine one | no – common marine one |