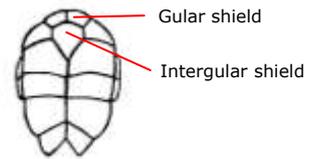


Identification key to the freshwater turtles of the Mary River

(NB. This key is designed for use with adult specimens as juveniles may have different features to adults.)

Length of head plus neck greater than 2/3 of the carapace length; front feet with 4 claws; gulars in contact (Fig. A) - Long necks

Fig. A
PLASTRON



Broad, strongly depressed head; upper surface of neck without tubercles (Figs. D and E); whitish plastron; plastron (Fig. A) completely enclosed within marginal scutes of carapace (Fig. C) when viewed from below (i.e. plastron distinctively smaller than carapace).

***Chelodina expansa* (Broad-shelled river turtle)**

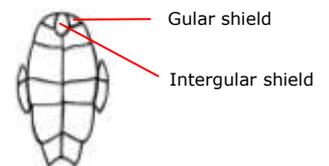
Head similar width to neck; upper surface of neck covered in blunt tubercles; pale plastron often with scutes outlined in black; front lobe of plastron extends beyond inner edges of marginal scutes of carapace.

***Chelodina longicollis* (Eastern snake-necked turtle)**

OR

Length of head plus neck less than 1/2 of the carapace length; front feet with 5 claws; gulars not in contact (Fig. B) - Short necks

Fig. B
PLASTRON



Nuchal scute almost always absent. (Fig. C)

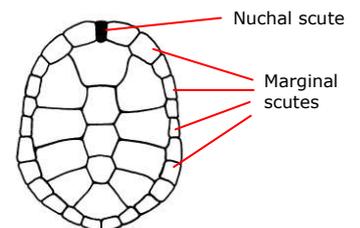
Irregular white or grey areas on side of face and throat; head shield furrowed and restricted to top of skull (Fig. E); rounded tubercles on upper surface of neck (Fig. E); intergular shield narrower than gulars.

***Elseya albagula* (White-throated snapping turtle)**

Head shield extending down the sides of head towards the tympanum (Fig. D); upper surface of neck covered in low, rounded tubercles and a variable number of higher, more erect, tapering tubercles (Fig. D); rear marginals usually serrated; intergular shield similar width to gulars.

***Wollumbinia latisternum* (Saw-shelled turtle)**

Fig. C CARAPACE



Nuchal scute almost always present. (Fig. C)

Head shield extending down the sides of head towards the tympanum (Fig. D); blunt tubercles (Fig. E) on upper surface, and possibly sides of neck; usually 2 large and 2 small barbels (Fig. D) on chin; adults with greatly enlarged tail; low stream-lined shell.

***Elusor macrurus* (Mary River turtle)**

Prominent yellow/whitish facial stripe usually present behind eye; head shield smooth; neck usually smooth but may have small, rounded tubercles (Fig. E); barbels small or absent (Fig. E); carapace becomes dome-shaped with age.

***Emydura macquarii krefftii* (Krefft's turtle)**

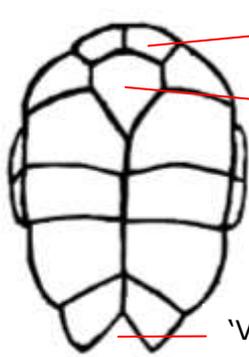
NB. Shells of these species cannot be easily distinguished. Refer to expanded descriptions for additional details.

Plastron
(lower portion of shell)

Gular shields **in contact**
with each other

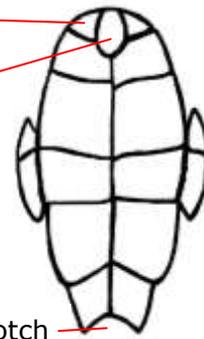
Gular shields **separated**
by intergular shield

Fig. A



'V' shaped rear notch

Gular shield
Intergular shield

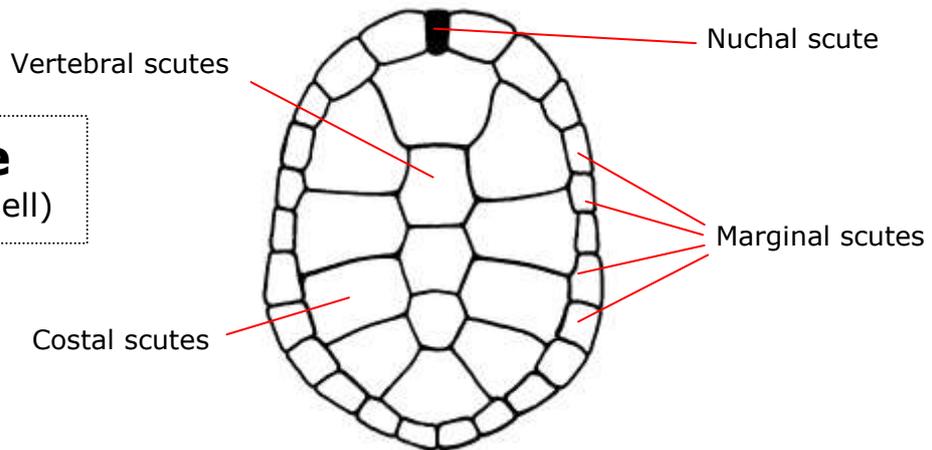


'U' shaped rear notch

Fig. B

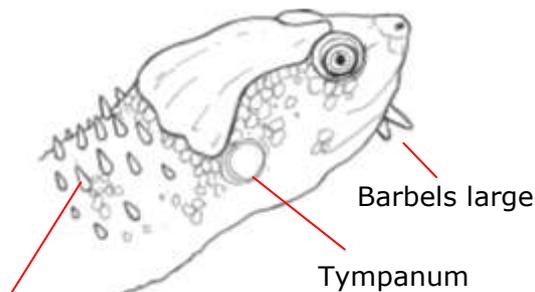
Carapace
(top portion of shell)

Fig. C



Head shield **extending**
down the sides of the head

Fig. D



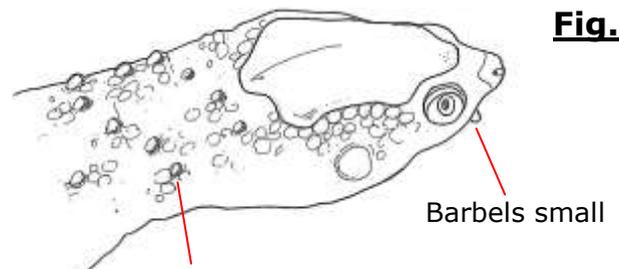
Tubercles tall, tapering

Barbels large

Tympanum

Head shield **NOT extending**
down the sides of the head

Fig. E



Tubercles short, squat

Barbels small