The first noted Occurrence of Dasypus bellus in Texas

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A small group of persons, "The Dallas Prehistorical Society", has for several years been collecting fossil bones from the second of a series of alluvial terraces of the Trinity River. We have assembled a rather extensive fauna. Our faunal list has not been published in full, although some specimens have been reported as new species. As some time will elapse before the faunal paper will be ready for publication, it seems well to report here the first Texas record of Dasypus bellus (Simpson).

The "T-2 Terrace" (local usage) stands some 70 feet above the stream level at Dallas, and is divided into 4 easily recognizable units: in ascending order, (1) basal gravel (Hill), (2) clean laminated sand (lower Shuler), (3) sandy clay, becoming less sandy toward the top (upper Shuler), and (4) dark gumbo, separable from the upland soils only by the presence of small caliche nodules (Richards).

Although there are a few erosional exposures, most of the fossils have come to us from excavations to secure sand and gravel for construction. Crook & Harris (1958) concluded that deposition of the terrace deposits were made during an interglacial or interstadial. Certain faunal elements and two carbon dates (Brannon et al., 1957)—both indicating an age in excess of 37,000 B.C.—suggest the last interglacial (Sangamon?). Both carbon dates were from the lower portion of the upper Shuler, while the specimen here described was collected by R. K. Harris and myself from the upper Shuler near its contact with the overlying "Richards", in association with Mammut, Mammutnus, Bison (large), Camelops, Castor, Testudo, and at least 2 species of horses. The locality is on Hickory Creek, near its junction with the Trinity River in southern Denton County. Our Dasypus bellus material was sent to Walter Auffenburg at the University of Florida for comparison with material from that State, and no important differences were noted.
Over 100 buckler-, ring- and thoracic vertebrae belonging to the D. bellus species in the Dallas collection, at the Quadrum of Natural History at New York University. While this is the first report that Holmes Simkins, great-grandson of Holmes Simkins, in Bexar County, that a number of scutes of this type came to light, and he cast them aside, thinking them to be parts of turtle carapace.

The buckler-scutes are 1.2 cm. in thickness, and 15 mm. in length and width, embossed with grooves that occupy the central part of the scute itself. This central part of this central figure to that descend one to 6 marginal areas. These grooves are the small punctuations are partially smooth, internal surface of the scutes.

The movable ring-scutes are 35 mm. in length. These are slightly elevated above the back. The grooves divide this posterior scute of bellus resembles an elongated trapezoid and approximates half of the ring-scutes.

Leg-scutes are almost a central figure that occurs slightly 3 mm. in thickness and length.

The modern counterparts to these has spread from south Texas into the Rio Grande in a little over a century. Recent records compiled the trip to Florida to Texas (1858), however, reports indicate that the species spreading today in Florida and other parts of this striking example of how species in historic times, one would probably be able to find such a dispersing of a specie...
**A Pleistocene Armadillo in Texas**

*Dasypus bellus* (Simpson)

Over 100 buckler-, movable ring-, and leg scutes, plus 3 thoracic vertebrae belonging to a single individual represent this species in the Dallas collections. These carry in the Dallas Museum of Natural History the catalog number "705 us, D.P.S.C." While this is the first report of this species in Texas, we may note that Holmes Simkins, graduate student at the University of Texas, collected two movable ring-scutes from the "Cave Without a Name"; in Bexar County. The inconspicuous size and appearance of scutes of this type could cause local collectors to overlook or cast them aside, thinking them merely bone-fragments or pieces of turtle carapace.

The buckler-scutes are hexagonal and average 6 to 7 mm. in thickness, and 15 mm. in width. The smooth external surface is embossed with grooves that form a smaller hexagon slightly off-center of the scute itself. Radiating grooves connect each corner of this central figure to the border of the scute, thus creating 5 to 6 marginal areas. These grooves mark the boundary of the scales that covered the carapace in life. Small follicles arrange themselves in these depressions, several to a scute. One or two small punctations are present on the slightly concave, completely smooth, internal face.

The movable ring-scutes average about 15 mm. in width and 35 mm. in length. The anterior fourth of the external face is slightly elevated above the posterior portion. Follicle-filled grooves divide this posterior into 3 figures. The inner figure resembles an elongated triangle, and each of the outer figures approximates half of the size and shape of the former.

Leg-scutes are almost square, and often display the hexagonal central figure that occurs in the bucklers. These are approximately 5 mm. in thickness and 10 mm. in diameter.

The modern counterpart of *Dasypus bellus*, *D. novemcinctus*, has spread from south Texas to other States east of the Mississippi River in a little over a century, and would no doubt have completed the trip to Florida in another hundred years. Buchanan (1958), however, reports that *D. novemcinctus* is present and spreading today in Florida because of its translation by man. If this striking example of migration had not taken place in historic times, one would probably allot considerably more time for such a dispersing of a species.