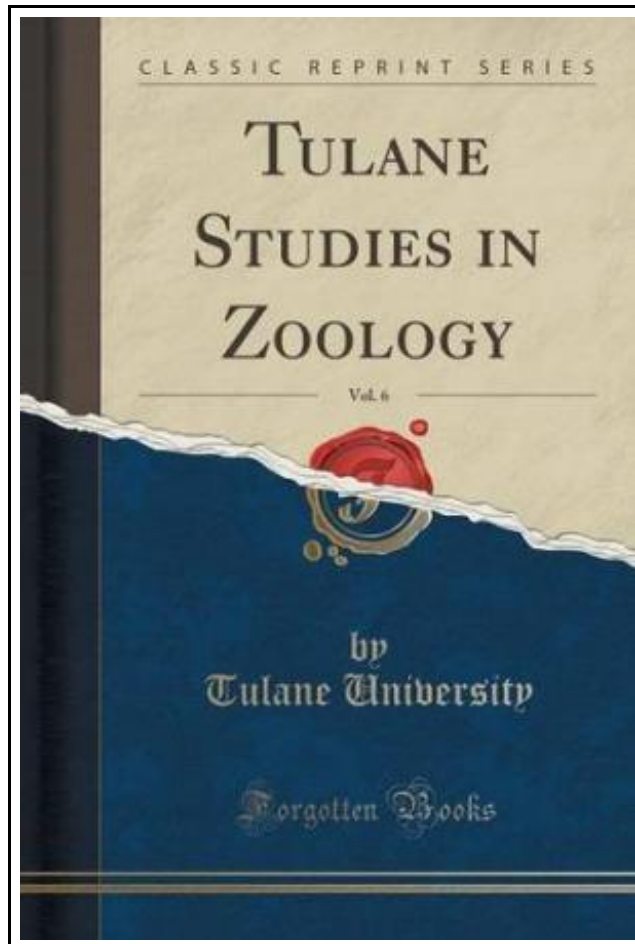


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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Excerpt from Tulane Studies in Zoology, Vol. 6 Fresh water turtles of the northern coast of the Gulf of Mexico are excellent materials for a study of speciation. Populations of species of several genera occupy approximately the same geographic areas and may have been exposed to the same modifications in drainage systems and geological changes in the Gulf coast. Turtles of the genus *Sternotherus* are restricted to the United States and southern Canada. Three species (four forms) are found in the Gulf coastal plain and some adjacent areas, and presumably have undergone the major part of their evolution there. These four forms constitute the *Sternotherus carinatus* complex. Because of its geographic position, a study of this complex utilizing a field approach with a laboratory analysis was feasible. Analysis of selected morphological characters as a means of evaluating relationships within the *Sternotherus carinatus* complex was the first objective. The populations of each major drainage system were considered separately in order to gain a better understanding of geographic variation. The second objective, to obtain information on behavior, habits and ecology of these turtles, was accomplished primarily in the field, but a few laboratory experiments and observations were made. The third objective was to correlate the differentiation of the *Sternotherus carinatus* complex with changes in river systems, stream capture, and changes in coastline elevation. This objective was difficult to attain because the geological history of the Gulf coast is inadequately known. The last objective was to compare the speciation pattern of the *Sternotherus carinatus* complex with that discernible in the turtle genera *Pseudemys*, *Graptemys* and *Trionyx* that occur in the same area. The details of speciation in the last three...



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