

THE GENUS *CREMNOBATES*, SWAINSON.

By C. HEDLEY and H. SUTER.

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A NUMBER of specimens of *Cremnobates parva*, Swainson, collected by Capt. J. Bollons, of the New Zealand Government S.S. "Hinemoa" at the Antipodes Islands, has drawn our attention to this genus, which has been ignored by most conchologists.

The genus was established by Swainson in Proc. Roy. Soc. Van Diemens Land, vol. iii, pt. i, p. 43, pl. vii, fig. 1, January, 1855. It is not *Cremnobates*, Günther, 1861 (Pisces), nor of Blanford, 1863 (Mollusca). The genus has been uniformly omitted by all recorders and monographers. Three species are enumerated—(1) *C. cornea*, (2) *C. parva*, (3) *C. solida*; but the first is *Ophicardelus australis*, Q. & G., and the third *Marinula patula*, Lowe, leaving *C. parva* as the type of the genus.

Swainson gives the following diagnosis: "Animal amphibious. Shell small, oval. Spire rather pointed, as long as the aperture. Aperture not contracted. Pillar, with strong plaits. Inner lip thin, smooth inside."

The following diagnosis of the genus is based on the Antipodes Islands specimens, which fortunately contained the animals preserved in alcohol.

Animal (in alcohol) with short tentacles, the eyes at their inner bases; foot long and narrow, truncated in front, narrowly rounded and simple behind, with a distinct transverse groove at the anterior third of length.

Jaw horny, arcuate, with a median projection below, and a shallow sinus above, vertically narrowly striated, the cutting-edge serrate.

Radula broad and long with numerous transverse, slightly arcuate rows of minute teeth, which are exceedingly numerous, with a long and narrow base, and a minute cusp. A central tooth could not be distinguished.

Shell small, oval, smooth, the spire as high as the aperture or a little less; aperture ovate, not contracted; the outer lip thin and simple; columella with two strong plaits on the upper half.

Distribution.—The type, stated to be in Dr. Milligan's collection, is from Oyster Cove, near Hobart, Tasmania, and a second locality is the Antipodes Islands. The following species are no doubt also members of the genus:—

1. *Marinula Maindroni*, Vélain, Archiv Zool. Expér., vol. vi, p. 126, pl. iv, fig. 26, 1877, from Amsterdam Island.

2. *Marinula nigra*, Philippi: Vélain, op. cit., p. 125, pl. iv, fig. 25, from Tristan da Cunha, St. Pauls and Amsterdam.

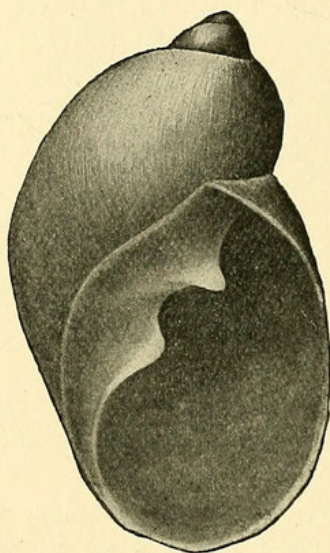
Thus the genus would appear to be of circum-Antarctic distribution.

CREMNOBATES PARVA, Swainson, 1855.

Cremnobates parva, Swainson, op. cit., p. 44, pl. vii, fig. 3.

Ophicardelus parvus, Swainson (*Cremnobates*), Tate & May, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, vol. xxvi, p. 420.

Shell ovate, thin, light, covered with an epidermis, spire slender, pointed; pillar plaited; first close to the top of the aperture; the second more towards the base (Swainson). Sculpture consisting of well-marked growth-lines. Colour whitish or light brown, the mouth light to dark brown. Epidermis thin, horny, mostly lost, the surface being corroded. Spire conic, typically of the same height as the aperture, but considerably lower in all the specimens from the Antipodes Islands. Protoconch minute, pointed. Whorls 4, the last very large, convex, a little flattened outside the suture; base flatly



convex. Suture deep. Aperture vertical, ovate, angled above, rounded below. Peristome continuous; outer lip thin and sharp, broadly arched; basal lip regularly convex. Columella slightly oblique, with 2 strong, white plaits, the upper one larger, near the top of the aperture, the lower one smaller and at about the middle of the columella; inner lip smooth, white, spreading a little beyond the columella, and uniting the margins of the peristome by a distinct sharp ridge. There is no trace of an umbilical fissure.

Diam. 5, height 7.5 mm. Largest specimen from the Antipodes Islands.

Animal, jaw, and radula as described for the genus.

Our figure is taken from a specimen collected at Tasman's Arch, South Tasmania, by Mr. W. L. May.



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