

ON THE GENUS *PERRIERIA*.

BY C. HEDLEY, F.L.S.

Having occasion to study the shell known to Australian naturalists as *Coeliaxis australis*, Forbes, sp., I am surprised to find that the species has no claim to that generic title. On turning to Fischer's "Manuel de Conchyliologie," p. 482, the type of *Coeliaxis*, Adams and Angas, is found misquoted as *C. exigua*; further search, however, shows that the authors of that genus instituted not *exigua*, but *layardi* as their type.

The preface (P.Z.S. 1867, p. 907) to the description of *C. exigua*, clearly indicating that "the species upon which *Coeliaxis* was founded" was the African *C. layardi*, Adams and Angas, runs as follows:—

"In a paper read at the meeting of the Society on the 10th January, 1865, we gave a description of a new species of land-shell from the Cape of Good Hope, for which the sub-generic name *Coeliaxis* was proposed. Adult specimens of a second species, possessing a continuous peritreme and distinct parietal plate, have since been received by us from the Solomon Archipelago, from which it would appear that *Coeliaxis* must be considered a distinct genus, having more affinity with *Gibbulina* and *Ennea* than with *Subulina*, to which we at the time referred it. Of the species on which *Coeliaxis* was founded, only two examples in the British Museum Collection have their aperture at all complete," &c., &c.

I cannot read in the foregoing quotation the meaning placed upon it by Fischer, who remarks (Jour. de Conch. Vol. xxxi. 1883, p. 99)—"Par le fait, le sous-genre *Coeliaxis* de 1865 est supprimé; le genre *Coeliaxis* date de 1867 et a pour type le *Coeliaxis exigua*, Adams and Angas, des îles Salamon." Messrs.

Adams and Angas show no intention of suppressing their genus, but merely offer a modification of it. If they had deliberately made the alteration imputed to them by Fischer, such an illegal procedure could not be tolerated.

An examination of the figures and description (P.Z.S. 1867, p. 907, pl. XLIII. figs. 16, 17) of *C. exigua* has satisfied me that the authors of that species had before them no Solomon Island shell, but the Queensland (*P.*) *australis*, Forbes. My colleague Mr. Brazier, who at my request compared the Australian shell with the figures and description in question, quite supports this identification. *C. exigua* may therefore be considered an absolute synonym of *C. australis*, and the habitat assigned to the former to be erroneous.

So manifold are the differences between *layardi* and *australis* that no zoologist will be hardy enough to confine the two within the limits of a single genus. *Coelioxys* being appropriated to *layardi*, another genus must be found for the reception of *australis*. It will not, however, be necessary to invent one. In the "Comptes-rendus de l'Acad. des Sciences," Vol. lxxxvi. 1878, p. 1150, Tapparone-Canefri thus defined the genus *Perrieria*:—"Testa sinistrorsa, fusiformis, multispira, apice truncata; apertura elliptica; peristoma continuum expansum; axis sinuosus, basi contortus et columellam truncatam atque subdentatam simulans." A single species, *clausiliaeformis*, Tapparone-Canefri, from Port Dorey and Mount Arfak, Dutch New Guinea, furnished the above generalisation, which with the exception of "sinistrorsa" perfectly agrees with the Australian representative. So many genera, *Partula*, *Pupa*, *Clausilia*, for example, are indifferently dextral or sinistral, the indifference even extending to species, that slight importance can be attached to this feature. With the admission of the second species, *australis*, the definition of *Perrieria* will therefore require modification in this particular.

As Nevill points out in the "Hand List of Mollusca in the Indian Museum," p. 68, Crosse and Fischer have been most lax in the matter of types; Fischer's "Manuel de Conchyliologie," in the main a very useful work, contains many errors of this

description. Thus, not *inaequalis*, but *greenwoodi*, is the type of *Rhytida*; *perlucidus* should have been named as the type of *Hyalimax*, not *maillardi*; and as shown above *exigua* is misquoted as the type of *Coeliaxis*, which was, is, and must remain, *layardi*.

The bibliography of *Perrieria australis*, Forbes, 1852, may be thus summarised:—

Synonym.—*exigua*, Adams and Angas, 1867.

Illustrations.—(Shell) Voyage of the Rattlesnake, pl. II. figs. 9a, 9b; P.Z.S. 1867, pl. XLIII. figs. 16, 17; Journ. de Conch. Vol. xxxi. fig. 4; Monogr. Aust. L. Shells, pl. XII. figs. 16, 16a; P.L.S.N.S.W. (2), Vol. VI. pl. XXI. figs. 4, 7; (Animal) *loc. cit.* fig. 9; (Dentition), Journ. de Conch. xxxi. pl. III. figs. 5 & 6.

Descriptions.—Voy. Rattlesnake, II. p. 380; Mon. Hel. Viv. III. p. 584; *op cit.* VI. p. 395; P.Z.S. 1867, p. 907; Monogr. Aust. L. Shells, p. 81; (Anatomy) Journ. de Conch. p. 101; (Habits) P.L.S.N.S.W. (2) VI. pp. 559 and 570.

Type in the British Museum.

Habitats.—Not Solomon Islands (Adams and Angas): but Port Mackay (Turner), Port Molle (MacGillivray), Warro Station, Port Curtis (Musson, Blackman), Cania (Musson), North Pine River (Musson), and Caboolture (Wilde); all on the Queensland coast.

NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Professor Haswell showed an inexpensive adaptation of the simple microscope for the effective exhibition in museum cases of small objects requiring moderate magnification.

Mr. Etheridge exhibited the fossils described in the papers by Dr. Woodward and himself.



Hedley, Charles. 1892. "On the genus Perrieria." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 7, 311–313. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.26055>.

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