

XXVI.—*Description of a New Species or Variety of Land Snail from California.*

BY ROBERT E. C. STEARNS.

Read October 20th, 1879.

***Helix*, variety *circumcarinata*, Stearns.**

Shell widely umbilicated, discoidal, flattened, angulated, with a peripheral keel; whorls six to six and a half, slightly tabulated near the sutures, which latter are deeply impressed; surface finely granulated, varying in different specimens; and otherwise sculptured by conspicuous subacute ribs parallel with the lines of growth both above and below, which meet, and sometimes cross, the peripheral keel; these ribs are more or less irregular and uneven, of varying prominence, and are also unequally spaced, being closely crowded in some places and farther apart in others. Aperture obliquely subangulate, semilunate; peristome moderately thickened, reflected somewhat, covering the open umbilicus, and made continuous by a connecting thin deposit of callus on the labium. Color, in some specimens, dingy white to white, in others a dingy reddish white, ornamented with a double revolving band,—the upper stripe being whitish, the lower reddish or light chestnut just above, and contiguous to the peripheral keel; the pinch or fold of the keel taking up what in *Helix Mormonum* is the third or lower stripe of white.

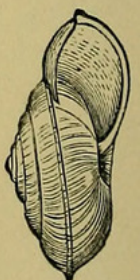
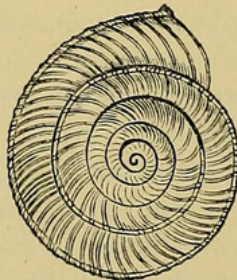
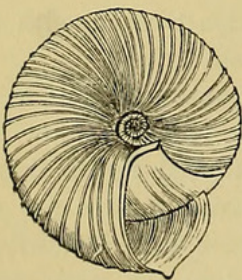
Number of specimens four, two adult and two immature, but nearly full grown.

Dimensions—Greater diameter, .92 to 1.01 inch.

Lesser “ .75 to .86 “

Height, .36 to .37 “

Animal not observed.



Helix, var. *circumcarinata*, Stearns.

Habitat, Stanislaus County, near Turloch, California.

For the specimens from which the above is written, I am indebted to Mr. A. W. Crawford, of Oakland, who has examples

in his collection; specimens are also contained in the typical collection of my friends Binney and Bland, and in my own museum.

Most authors would regard the above as a distinct and well-marked species; I regard it (as well as *H. Hillebrandi*, of Newcomb) as a varietal form of *Helix Mormonum*, to which it is a near neighbor, inhabiting the same region.

Binney, in his last volume on *The Terrestrial Air-breathing Mollusks of the United States, &c.*, in referring to *H. Mormonum* (on page 367), remarks: "The specimens lately received from California * * * are singularly granulated on the first one and a half apical whorls, and the epidermis of the next two or three whorls is sparingly ornamented with small but very distinct raised lines or points, something like prostrate hairs, being part of and same color as the epidermis." I have observed the same, but the points are not always epidermidal, but sometimes sculpture the shell as well, and the peculiarity Binney has detected is one of the connecting links between the three; as to the other links, and the special and general relations of the species or varieties cited, to others of our California land-snails, I propose to discuss the matter hereafter.



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