

On the Metamorphosis of Praniza into Anceus.

In a recent Number (No. 6 of the present Series) we gave a very brief notice of the reported discovery by M. Hesse of Brest, that the *Pranizæ* are the larval forms of *Anceus*. At the meeting of the Academy of Sciences on the 28th of June, 1858, M. Milne-Edwards presented a report upon the memoir of M. Hesse, containing some further information as to the extent of the observations made by the latter. From this it appears that M. Hesse found some *Pranizæ* upon the fins of Gurnards and some other fishes, and kept them alive in sea-water. After they had passed a few days in captivity, he saw them become transformed into *Ancei*. In another series of observations M. Hesse followed the development of the ova deposited by *Ancei*, and saw *Pranizæ* hatched from them. "The fact of the specific identity of the *Pranizæ* and *Ancei*," says M. Milne-Edwards, "appears to us therefore completely established. The *Pranizæ* are *Ancei* in the state of larvæ, just as the tadpole is the young of the Frog, and the silkworm the first state of the *Bombyx*." This memoir of M. Hesse, with another by the same author upon the *Caligidæ* and *Lernæadæ*, will be printed *in extenso* in the 'Mémoires des Savants Etrangers.'—*Comptes Rendus*, June 28, 1858, p. 1258.

On the Power of Dissolving Shells possessed by the Bernard Crab (Pagurus). By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

In a note to my paper "On the Formation and Structure of Shells," in the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1833, I stated it is probable that some Bernard Crabs have also the faculty of dissolving shells, for it is not unusual to find the long fusiform shells (such as *Fusus fasciolaris* and *turbinella*) which are inhabited by these animals, with the inner lip and great part of the pillar on the inside of the mouth destroyed, so as to render the aperture much larger than usual.

Having continued my observations on these shells, I am convinced that certain species of Bernard Crab (*Pagurus*) have this power, some possessing it to a much greater degree than others.

Lieut. Burnaby lately brought a number of Crustacea to the British Museum from the South Seas, amongst which there were several specimens of *Paguri* in shells, and these shells were more destroyed than any I had before observed. One, a specimen of *Persona tuberosa*, not only had the whole of the thickened rounded inner lip, but the whole of the septa between the whorls up to the apex of the shell also destroyed, so as to convert the shell into a simple conical cavity; and the greater part of the substance of the outer lip was also removed from the inner surface, so as to render the outer part of the shell very thin—indeed so much was removed, that the series of pits on the outer surface, just above the marginal varix of the outer lip, was entirely destroyed, converting the pits into a series of apertures. The other shells inhabited by these Crustacea were similarly destroyed. The internal surface of the shell has the appearance of being ground away by a file or other rough surface.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* March 9, 1858.



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