

XXXV.—Notice of a New Subgenus of *Helicinadæ*.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S.

THERE is an inclination, in several groups of Marine Univalve Mollusca, for the animal to form a more or less deep notch or fissure on the hinder part of the outer lip, as in the genera *Pleurotoma*, *Amphibola*, *Pleurotomaria*, and *Siliguaria*; this notch appears to be formed to facilitate the entrance and exit of the water from the respiratory chamber. Sometimes the slit, or a series of holes which may be considered as an interrupted slit, is placed more in front, as in *Haliotis*; or when the shell is symmetrical, as in *Emarginula*, it is in the centre of the front edge. Some shells which are normally destitute of this notch are liable to a malformation exhibiting it, as is the case in the common *Littorina littorea*.

I had never observed any indication of such a conformation in any terrestrial mollusk until Mr. Damon of Weymouth kindly showed to me some specimens of a species of *Helicina* he had received from Cuba, under the name of *Trochatella regina*, which have this notch most perfectly developed, and as it indicates a peculiar structure in the animal, I propose to separate it from the group hitherto recognized in the family *Helicinadæ*, as a distinct subgenus. Dr. Pfeiffer has considered it as forming a peculiar section of the genus *Trochatella*, but none of the other species of that genus show any inclination to this peculiarity.

I may here remark, that some species of this family have a notch or very narrow slit in the front of the outer lip near the axis, but this slit appears to have no relation to the notches or slit referred to in the other genera, being merely formed by a process in the front of the outer edge of the operculum, a peculiarity I have not observed in any other family of Mollusks.

HAPATA.

Shell conical, subglobose; spire conical, acute, whorls striated; aperture semioval; outer lip expanded, with a deep sinus in front and a deep wide notch in the hinder part of the outer edge. Pillar-lip callous, straight in front, without any anterior slit. Operculum half-ovate, annular, thin, horny; nucleus in the middle of the inner straight edge; covered internally with a thick, smooth, shelly, callous coat.

Hapata regina = *Trochatella regina*, Pfeiffer, Pneum. Mon. 328; Cat. Phanerop. Brit. Mus. 236.

Hab. Cuba.



Gray, John Edward. 1856. "XXXV.—Notice of a new subgenus of Helicinadæ." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 18, 414–414. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222935608697657>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/19544>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00222935608697657>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/35216>

Holding Institution

Natural History Museum Library, London

Sponsored by

Natural History Museum Library, London

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.