

mm. The occipital and orbital areas of the skull are reasonably well preserved, but the last quarter of the rostrum is lacking. The dimensions and general appearance of the skull here described resemble so closely those of *Delphinodon dividum* at the National Museum¹ and another specimen of this species procured by the writer² from Zone 12 of the Miocene series of the Calvert Cliffs, near Parker Creek, Maryland, that there can be little doubt as to the identification.

ARTHUR R. BARWICK,
Department of Geology & Geography,
The Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C.

THE CORRECT NAME OF THE FLORIDA HYDATINA.

This beautiful mollusk has for a long time been sailing under a relative's name, namely *Hydatina physis*. This is probably largely due to the fact that the animals of members of this genus rarely come into the hands of the taxonomist who deals chiefly with their shells.

We have recently had a beautiful series of specimens of the Florida Hydatina brought to our Institution by Mr. John H. Irons, gathered at Lake Worth, Florida, which show at a glance that the animal has an entirely different color scheme from that pictured for *H. physis*. Our mollusk, instead of being variously ornately attired, has a unicolor brown tint which varies from a burned umber edge at the edge of the mantle to light brownish drab on the major portion of the upper surface. The tip of the tentacles agrees with the edging of the mantle, while the base agrees with the major portion of the body. The foot is light brownish drab. The shell itself is marked by pale and light spiral zones, usually brown ones alternating with bluish black. A search of the literature reveals that in 1786 Solander (Humphrey) used the name *Bulla vesicaria* in the catalogue of the Portland Museum, page 136, for the West Indian shell, basing this upon Albertus Seba's "*Locupletissimi rerum naturalium thesauri*," vol. 3, pl. 38, figs. 46-48; *vesicaria* therefore becomes the specific name for the large beautiful Florida Hydatina.

We are greatly indebted to Mr. Irons for bringing to our attention the decidedly distinctive characters of the Florida species as compared with those from the Orient. A large series of beautifully preserved specimens show plainly from the color scheme alone that our Florida species has nothing in common with that of the Pacific.

Mr. Irons furnished me with the following interesting notes on the habits of this animal.

"Hydatina evidently spends most of its life burrowing in the silt and sand of sheltered waters. It emerges at breeding time when the egg cases are delivered and attached to small marine growths where fertilization evidently takes place."

PAUL BARTSCH,
United States National Museum.

¹ True, F. W., 1912: *Jo. Acad. Nat. Sci., Phila.* (n. s.) 15; pp. 163-194.

² Barwick, A. R., 1939, *Amer. Midland Nat.*, Vol. 22, No. 1; pp. 154-159.



Bartsch, Paul. 1940. "The correct name of the Florida Hydatina." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 53, 92–92.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/107567>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/45073>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Biodiversity Heritage Library

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: In copyright. Digitized with the permission of the rights holder.

Rights Holder: Biological Society of Washington

License: <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Rights: <https://biodiversitylibrary.org/permissions>

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>.