

varieties and subvarieties figured and described by Reuss and others.

On close examination of specimens and collation of lists, we find that, as with *Globigerinæ*, so with *Rotalinæ*, it is by the *increase of varieties* the distinction is chiefly made between the Foraminiferal faunæ of the past and of the present seas.

[To be continued.]

XXX.—*On a Four-bearded Water-Terrapin from North Australia.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

THE British Museum has received a very young freshwater Terrapin belonging to the family Hydraspidæ, from Cape York, North Australia. It agrees with the genus *Elseya* in having no nuchal shield, and in having the back of the neck furnished with regular longitudinal rows of small conical spines. The skin over the temporal muscles is divided into irregular convex tubercles; the crown of the head is covered with a continuous soft skin, which becomes hard when dried.

This specimen differs from all the known species of *Elseya* in having four beards—that is to say, two short cylindrical beards on each side of the hinder edge of the lower beak. The two front are in the place where beards are usually found in the genus, the two hinder at some distance behind them.

The head and back of the neck are dark olive; the beaks are greyish white, with a broad white streak from the angle of the mouth extending behind towards the shoulders. This streak is separated from the white throat by a black streak on its lower side, which is extended in front, and forms a narrow margin to the back edge of the lower beak. The back of the shell is dark olive, the areolæ occupying nearly the whole of the plates; the front marginal shields with numerous minute spines; nuchal shield none. The underside of the marginal shields and the sternum white, with a very narrow edge to the marginal plates; a dark oval spot on each side of the suture between the second and third and hinder plates.

This may be the type of a new genus characterized by the four beards; but I think it is most likely an accidental variety of *Elseya latisternum*. We must wait until we obtain more specimens to determine this point, more especially as the top of the head wants the hard surface of the older specimen of that genus.



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