

Besides these, there are a lot of "suspects" also, which may yield the following species:

Unio cuneus Con.

Unio hebetatus Con.

Unio ——. New species; has pink nacre.

Finally, our box yielded two large univalves, which Mr. Marsh pronounces to be *Campeloma geniculum* Conrad.

ABALONE FISHERY IN CALIFORNIA—PROTECTIVE REGULATION.

BY R. E. C. STEARNS.

The continued gathering or "fishing" of Abalones (*Haliotis*, Ear-shells or Ormers, as they are variously called), along the coast of California, has recently led to restrictive action by some of the county authorities. The supervisors of Monterey, and of other of the seaboard counties, have taken the necessary legal steps to regulate the fishing, which has been carried on continuously from about 1864 to the present time by the Chinese, and of late by the Japanese. The well-known species, *Haliotis rufescens* and *H. cracherodii*, so abundant between tidemarks a few years ago, have, owing to the unintermittent collecting by the Asiatic fishermen, become comparatively scarce.

An ordinance recently passed by the authorities of Monterey County, makes it unlawful to "fish" for Abalones except in deep water, and by means of diving apparatus or other deep-sea devices. A license of \$60 is also to be charged in the future for "fishing" for abalones. (This license fee is presumably for the term of a year.) The ordinance is said to be "the result of a fight" between the city of Monterey, seeking to stop the gathering and shipping out of the county (or country?) of Abalone meats and shells, and the Japanese cannery, that has carried on an extensive business at a plant on Carmel Bay, about six miles south of Monterey. Practically, the ordinance is a compromise between local parties; the fishermen being restricted to "deep water," excepting a limited portion of the littoral

zone, between a line drawn due west from Carmel river and the southern boundary of the county.

Monterey City, with its Del Monte hotel and fine surroundings, Pacific Grove with its many attractive features, the beautiful Carmel Valley and the old Mission church, make the region hereabout the most popular seaside resort in Central California, and draw great numbers of people from all parts of the state. The rambles along the shore, collecting the beautiful Abalones and other shells, by visitors, who carry them away as souvenirs, has been one of the many attractions, and has had no doubt something to do with the above action on the part of the authorities, to prevent the extermination of one of Nature's most beautiful forms. Whatever may have been the motive that has led to this restrictive regulation, it is amply justified on the broad ground of public interest, and the example of the Monterey supervisors should be followed by the officials in all of the coast counties.

R. E. C. S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN IDS., SEPT. 16, 1899.

* * * My trip to Alaska was most interesting and successful. My attention was chiefly given to geology and paleontology, so I had little time for collecting shells, still I did something and added a few points to our knowledge of geographical distribution. The most interesting was the discovery at Biorka Island, at the entrance of Sitka sound, that a number of the southern species creep up along the seaward margin of the archipelago much further north than they do among the islands. Thus I found *Leptothyra carpenteri*, *Psammobia californica*, *Calliostoma filosum*, etc., at Biorka, though they do not occur in Sitka Sound nor, as far as I know, much north of Vancouver Island, in the inner channels. Prof. Ritter, of Cal. State University, did the dredging that was done, but the results in mollusks were less novel than in other directions.

After our return to Portland I came down here Aug. 9th per steamer, making the passage in six days very comfortably. The sea en route was much less supplied than I had expected with pteropods



Stearns, Robert E. C. 1899. "Abalone fishery in California - protective regulation." *The Nautilus* 13, 81–82.

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