

Another marked feature of his writings is the cataloguing of all known species of certain genera, often with synonymie and geographical distribution appended. Among the genera thus treated are *Cancellaria*, *Conus*, *Holospira*, *Hybocystis*, *Lyria*, *Meræ*, *Opisthostoma*, *Parmacella*, *Pirena*, *Placobranchus*, *Pleurotomaria*, *Pomatias*, *Rapa*, *Rhodea*, *Risella* and *Voluta*.

It naturally befel one who had the handling of vast masses of material to found new genera, as well as innumerable new species, yet he was no sympathizer with the "splitting" school, and discountenanced, rather by example than rebuke, the folly of those who reduce the science to confusion by manufacturing a new species for every second specimen. To Crosse are due, either singly or in conjunction with P. Fischer, the following, amongst other genera: *Acroptychia*, *Berendtia*, *Diplomphalus*, *Eucalodium*, *Geostilbia*, *Guestieria*, *Pereiræa*, *Strebelia* and *Xanthonyx*.

PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION OF A NEW VARIETY OF HALIOTIS.

BY ROBERT E. C. STEARNS.

Haliotisfulgens, Phil., var. *Walallensis*, Stearns.

On the coast of Mendocino county, California, in the extreme southwest corner, close to the northerly boundary line of Sonoma county, is an embarcadero or shipping point of the lumber interests of that neighborhood; here is situated a small settlement known as Gualalla.* The coast hereabout is broken and rocky, with bluffs fifty to a hundred feet high. In the immediate vicinity of this village Mr. J. J. Rivers some years ago collected the forms herein described, specimens of which are contained in the National Museum (No. 98,327) and in the museum of the University of California. The examples in the National collection were kindly presented to me by Mr. Rivers, and are a part of the original lot. The largest adult is of much smaller size than the average adult examples of the ordinary form of *H. fulgens*; my examination of the entire series collected by Mr. Rivers suggested the European *H. tuberculata* of the Channel islands. There is a Japanese figure in Reeve's Conch. Icon., *H. planata*, which it somewhat resembles. As my note book containing the diagnosis, etc., of the above was unfortunately destroyed some years ago, I am indebted to

* Gualalla, which is the official post office name of the village, is a localized corruption of the Indian *Walalla*, which latter, I think, should be perpetuated.

the courtesy of my friend, Dr. W. H. Dall, for the following description from the National Museum examples:

Shell of an oval form, considerably flattened and with about two and a half whorls; color, dark brick red, with occasional mottlings of pale bluish green; holes, four in the young to six in the adult; sculpture, of fine, somewhat irregular spiral threads, crossed by fine, close, slightly elevated, sharp, concentric lamellæ, and a few small obscure wavelets which radiate obliquely from the apex; nacre rather pale, with pink and pale green reflections, but much less deep in color than the typical *fulgens* Lon., 100; lat., 68; alt., 17 mm.

This variety differs from the type in its more elongate and flattened form, its constantly finer, spiral threading and its paler nacre. The concentric lamellation is sometimes undeveloped on the young shells. It has the same number of holes as the type.

This varietal form may be regarded as the extreme northerly expression of *H. fulgens*; the latter, if my memory is not at fault, has not heretofore been credited to any part of the coast north of Point Concepcion; from that point to Gualalla is an immense jump, about 320 nautical miles.

GENERAL NOTES.

A NEW GENUS OF HELICES.—Upon dissecting specimens of *Polygyra miorhyssa* Dall, recently, Prof. Cockerell noticed several important points of divergence in the genitalia as compared with what has been observed in *Polygyra*, and sent fresh material to Prof. Pilsbry, stating that a new group seemed to be indicated, and requesting further examination. This resulted in the confirmation of the features first noticed and the discovery of others, indicating a new generic group, which may be called *Ashmunella*, in honor of Rev. E. H. Ashmun, whose researches in New Mexico and Arizona have added materially to our knowledge of the mollusk fauna of those regions. The type is *P. miorhyssa* Dall. An illustrated account of *Ashmunella* will appear in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

H. A. P. & T. D. A. C.

MELAMPUS FLORIDANUS SHUTTL.—In August, 1894, I collected some *Melampus* on Chambers' farm, Queen Anne county, opposite Chestertown, Md. They were put in the collection of the Academy under the name, *M. lineatus* Say, but on examination they prove to be *M. floridanus*, Shuttl. May not other collections have this Floridian species from northern localities?

E. G. VANATTA.



Stearns, Robert E. C. 1899. "Preliminary description of a new variety of *Haliotis*." *The Nautilus* 12, 106–107.

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