

*Phenacarion* might almost be a variety of *Prophysaon hemphilli*, except for the generic character. Possibly Prof. E. D. Cope would regard this as an instance of "the same specific form" existing "though a succession of genera," which he has regarded as probable in his "Origin of the Fittest" (quoted by Wallace, "Darwinism," p. 421). Indeed, it not very rarely happens that almost the only difference between two species is a generic one. Good instances of this are afforded among the *Hymenoptera*, e. g., the resemblance of *Vipio coloradensis* Ashm., to *Agathis vulgaris* Cress., is almost exact on superficial examination. Except the generic and family characters, the *Agathis* is only a little larger with entirely fuscous wings, and the posterior femora and tibiæ mostly orange—peculiarities which might elsewhere be varietal only.

NOTE.—Mr. Cockerell writes me that he now regards *Phenacarion* as a subgenus of *Prophysaon*.—Ed.

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#### A FEW LAST WORDS ON CREPIDULA.

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BY JOHN FORD.

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In my article on *Crepidula* published in the 8th number of the NAUTILUS, I endeavored to show that the shells described by Say as *C. glauca* were altogether distinct from the *C. fornicata* of Linné, and therefore the name should have been retained in Bulletin No. 30 of the National Museum recently published by Dr. Dall, instead of discarded. As in the following number their distinctness from *fornicata* was acknowledged by Dr. Dall, no further evidence seems necessary to sustain it.

The assertion by him however in the same issue, that the series of shells presented by me to the National Museum under the name of *C. glauca* "are distinct from *C. fornicata* but that they do not show the characters called for by Say's description," does, perhaps, challenge further remark; since it appears to be partly correct and partly conjectural. They are certainly not *C. fornicata*, but they as certainly do embody every character called for by Say's description of the true *C. glauca* written in 1821-2, and published in Vol. 2, Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia; also in Say's Conchology of the United States.



It is possible, as Dr. Dall asserts, that the series in question are depressed specimens of *C. convexa*;—the extreme convex form of which he supposes to be caused by growing on the rounded surfaces of small univalves, but I do not think it at all probable.

Quite a number of those in my own collection were taken from small univalves but they are precisely the same in character as the series alluded to, and, like them, are labeled *C. glauca*, Say. As a matter of fact the peculiarly arched forms known as *C. convexa* are very rare on our immediate coasts, while those described as *C. glauca* are comparatively plentiful.

Why should there be this disparity in numbers? It surely cannot be for the want of those "roosting conditions" so needful to the growth of *C. convexa*, since it is well known that the small univalves of our region greatly outnumber the large ones.

Though many hundreds of the former have been examined by me I have never seen a *C. convexa* upon them. I have also scanned every available point on the New Jersey coast scores of times within the last twenty-five years, and during all of that period have secured but six specimens (all dead), corresponding to Say's description of *C. convexa*.

This fact of course proves nothing; nevertheless, until further evidence to the contrary is adduced I shall deem it prudent to consider them two distinct and well-marked species.

Should they, however, eventually prove to be the same, even then, as my friend, Mr. H. A. Pilsbry, has stated, the name *C. glauca*, having precedence over *C. convexa* in Say's original paper, must always stand for the type form, and be entitled therefore to a "place of honor" in all monographs of the genus.

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### Young Collectors' Department.

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#### COLLECTING LAND SHELLS IN EASTERN NEW YORK.

BY W. S. TEATOR.

(Continued from February No.)

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More careful hunting under the logs will bring to light good specimens of *Zonites arboreus*, *indentatus*, and *viridulus*; the last two rather scarce. Also a few *Zonites fulvus*, *H. labyrinthica* and



Ford, John. 1890. "A few last words on Crepidula." *The Nautilus* 3, 128–129.

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