

Pis. vesiculare n. sp.

Mussel small, ovoid, very inequipartite, somewhat oblique, strongly inflated; beaks very posterior, moderately prominent; margins all well rounded, or the scutum forming a very slight angular projection; color yellowish to brownish-horn; surface slightly striated, polished, often with a few coarser lines of growth; shell thin, translucent; nacre rather glassy, colorless; hinge rather small, markedly short; cardinal teeth lamellar, the right moderately curved with its anterior end thicker; anterior left distinctly directed upward, curved, often angular, posterior oblique, moderately curved; groove between them narrow and deep; lateral teeth situated very close to the cardinals, short, especially those in the left valve abrupt, high; ligament short.

Size: long 2.3, alt. 1.9, diam. 1.7 mill.

Habitat. Michigan.

More than fifteen hundred specimens were seen during the last year, collected at Grand Rapids, Michigan, by Mr. L. H. Streng about ten years ago, and all were remarkably uniform in shape and appearance. Yet I hesitated to announce the form as a new species, thinking it might be a variety of *P. ventricosum* Prime. But later it has been seen from various other places, as Lake Michigan, Hess Lake, "Michigan," in one instance named "*P. rotundatum*," from which it is very different by its beaks situated posteriorly, while in *rotundatum* they are almost in the middle.

P. vesiculare can be mistaken only for *P. ventricosum* Pr., from which it differs by the following characters: it is longer, less oblique, more regular in form, being more regularly though less inflated, the beaks are much less prominent; the surface shows less coarse and irregular lines of growth. It is somewhat variable in size, measuring 2.1–2.7 millimetres in length, and in being slightly more or less inflated.

A NEW VARIETY OF PUNCTUM.

BY H. A. PILSBRY.

Punctum conspectum var. *pasadenæ* n. var.

Shell resembling *P. conspectum* Bld., but more widely and openly umbilicated, and without spaced riblets, or with them very slightly indicated.

Light chestnut colored, rather opaque. Contour about that of *P. conspectum*, the spire very low-conic, apex obtuse. Whorls $3\frac{3}{4}$ to 4, convex, separated by impressed sutures, the last more or less descending in front. Umbilicus open, easily showing all the whorls, its width contained $3\frac{3}{4}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter of shell. Surface with close, fine, irregular growth-striae, sometimes showing slight traces of wide-spaced stronger striae, and very densely, minutely spirally striated. Aperture rounded-oval, quite oblique, the lip thin; columellar margin brought far forward and expanded. Alt. 1.15, diam. 2 mm.

Numerous specimens of this small species were found by Hon. Delos Arnold crawling upon a cement walk in front of his residence in Pasadena, California, and were communicated to the writer by Mrs. Julia E. Campbell.

In typical *P. conspectum* the umbilicus is smaller, contained $4\frac{1}{4}$ to $4\frac{2}{3}$ times in diameter of base, and the riblets are prominent, although subject to considerable variation. The dentition of the Pasadena shells is similar to that of *conspectum*. The other species of *Punctum* now known from America are *P. pygmaeum* var. *minutissimum* Lea, and *P. Randolphii* Dall.

GENERAL NOTES.

PROPOSED BIOLOGICAL STATION.—Professor T. D. A. Cockerell, of Las Cruces, New Mexico, has it in view to found in New Mexico a Biological Station, and health and holiday resort for scientific persons, teachers and kindred spirits.

Three years experience in this country gives the writer the highest opinion of the value of the climate for persons in the earlier stages of phthisis; while the abundance of new and interesting forms of life, especially among the insects, is remarkable. Many interesting general problems, such as those of the life-zones, can also be studied in New Mexico to great advantage.

A beginning will be made this summer if students can be found. Prof. Cockerell will be glad to hear from any who are interested in the matter, and especially from those who might be inclined to work with him for longer or shorter periods during the present summer.

PROFESSOR H. E. SARGENT is now in Detroit, Michigan (Detroit Museum of Art), engaged in preparing for public exhibition the Stearns collection of Mollusca.



Pilsbry, Henry Augustus. 1896. "A new variety of Punctum." *The Nautilus* 10, 21-22.

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