DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF HELIX, FOUND FOSSIL IN A CALCAREOUS SANDSTONE DEPOSIT AT KENT'S GROUP,

By Robt. M. Johnston, F.L.S.

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Helix Simsoniana, n.s.

Shell solid, umbilicated, convexly depressed; whorls, $3\frac{3}{4}$, rapidly increasing, ornamented above by somewhat coarse wrinkled transverse striæ, which become more regular as they approach the nucleus; base convex, and obsoletely irregularly cancellated; periphery sharply keeled; umbilicus deep, and narrowly perspective; aperture oblique, lunately-ovate, with a broad, shallow sinus at periphery, which latter is less sharply keeled as it approaches aperture; margins simple, slightly converging, columellar margin curved, moderately thickened, and slightly reflexed.

Dia. max., 32 mil.; min., 25 mil.; height, 13 mil. Habitat: Fossil in calcareous sandstone (tertiary), Kent's Group.

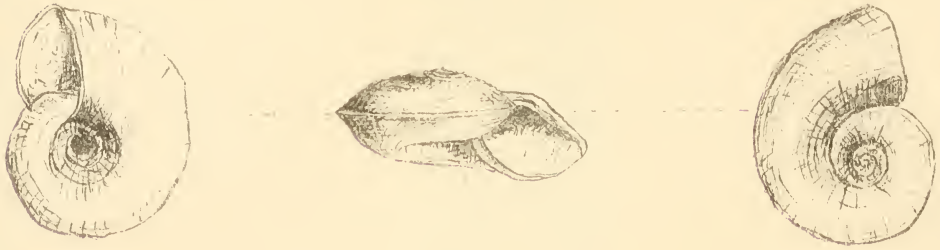
This interesting fossil is more closely allied to the existing *H. Launcestonensis* than to any other Tasmanian form, and it is nearly its equal in size.

The fragments of rock, in which several specimens of this interesting shell were found imbedded, were presented to me by Mr. A. Simson, who obtained them through Admiral Barnard, from Kent's Group. The rock—a calcareous sandstone—is similar to the *Helicidæ sandstone* of the Furneaux Group.

It would be a desirable thing if the lighthouse authorities could be induced to interest themselves in obtaining a box or two of the richly fossiliferous rock, in order that its position may be more satisfactorily determined. I am as yet in doubt whether to class the rock with the tertiary group, of which the Geilston travertin is a member, or with the *Helicidæ sandstone* of the Flinders group.

I made a similar appeal on a former occasion, but, I regret to say, without any satisfactory result.

a. *b* *c*



HELIX SIMSONIANA N.S. R M JOHNSTON

Fossil (calcareous sandstone (Tertiary) Kents Group.

a. View of base nat: size.
b. Elevation " "
c. Upper surface. " "

Note.—Helix Simsoniana. It is of great interest to find that the nearest allies of this *Helix* are now existing in the neighbourhood of Nelson and Auckland, New Zealand. It forms a connecting link between *H. Greenwoodi*, Gray, and *H. dunniæ*, ibid. That its nearest allies should now be found living in New Zealand is a matter of great importance to those who take an interest in the laws of distribution.