

ON SOME LAND AND AQUATIC SHELLS FROM MARIA ISLAND.

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I herewith submit a list of the species of land and fresh water testacea which were recently collected on Maria Island, East Coast. It includes several which have but a restricted distribution on the adjacent mainland, and the somewhat remarkable association of species is of more than passing interest, although the majority are such as are to be found widely dispersed. The appearance at this insular locality of the local *Helix sinclairi* is quite unexpected, and *H. lottah* and *H. nelsonensis* have strayed far away from their originally recorded habitats.

The almost microscopic *H. halli* is not usually an abundant species, but here it appears in considerable quantity, and is in fact the most common of the smaller forms. There are also several specimens of a new species with little affinity to any already known. Of the two species of aquatic shells, one is quite a new departure in the *Ancylus*, not only as regards our local molluscan fauna, but as well as relates to the genus generally.

Its unique characteristic is the widely-spreading margin of the aperture, a peculiarity not to be found in any of the numerous species of the genus. This remarkable departure from the normal condition, in a genus which affords but limited variation in general structural peculiarities, is difficult to adequately account for, but it would appear to afford a stronger attachment, and may thus resist disturbance in a swiftly flowing stream.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES.

1. *Ancylus mariæ*, n. sp.

Shell small, thin horn-brown colour, broadly irregularly ovate, concentrically striate, with well marked lines of growth. Aperture extremely large, the margins broadly, prominently, and flatly expanded, thus forming an irregular base of attachment. Apex prominent, obtuse, oblique, and sub-marginal.

Long., 5 ; lat., $3\frac{1}{2}$; alt., $2\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Habitat : Maria Island, East Coast, attached to submerged stones and aquatic plants in a small running stream.

This is a very peculiar form of a genus which has several representatives on the mainland. In its young state it has much the general appearance of *A. tasmanicus*, Tenison

Woods, but maturer examples have a constant and unique flat expansion of the aperture, which thus forms a firm base of attachment, and by this character it is separated from all known congeners.

So far as known, it is restricted to the insular locality mentioned. It is apparently abundant, and was the only species collected on the island.

2. *Helix discors*, n. sp.

Shell minute, openly umbilicated, depressed lenticular, of a pale brown colour, finely striated throughout with distant, prominent, oblique riblets, whorls 4, convex above, obtusely carinated at the periphery; aperture roundly lunate, margins approximating.

Diam., greatest, 2; height, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mill.

Habitat: Maria Island, under and attached to stones.

This new species is about the size of *Helix hobarti*, Cox., but differs much in both form and sculpture. Its decided lenticular build, and, for so small a shell, prominent riblets, quite separates it from the large number of minute species of the genus which have been described.

LIST OF SPECIES COLLECTED.

Aquatic Species.

1. *Potamopyrgus simsoniana*. Brazier variety.
2. *Ancylus mariæ*, n. sp.

Land Species.

1. *Bulimus dufresnii*. Leach. Abundant, but not large.
2. *Bulimus gunnii*. Pfr. Very plentiful in favourable localities.
3. *Vitrina verreauxi*. Pfr. Abundant.
4. *Helix sinclairi*. Pfr. Rare; of the usual type.
5. „ *ruga*. Cox.
6. „ *legrandi*. Cox.
7. „ *diemenensis*. Cox.
8. „ *halli*. Cox.
9. „ *nelsonensis*. Cox.
10. „ *juliformis*. Cox.
11. „ *hobarti*. Cox.
12. „ *lottah*. Mihi.
13. „ *discors*, n. sp.