

## ON THE FRESHWATER SHELLS OF TASMANIA.

BY REV. J. E. TENNISON WOODS, F.G.S., F.L.S.

[Read 9th August, 1875.]

*Introduction.*—No attempt has yet been made to arrange the freshwater shells of Tasmania. The land shells have been carefully catalogued by Mr. Legrand, so that little remains to be desired in that department of our island fauna. The marine shells have received much attention from most eminent naturalists, though a list carefully criticised, with a well arranged account of the bibliography is much wanted. But the freshwater shells have been almost entirely neglected. There have been one or two descriptions of *Physa* in Reeve, and one or two other notices of species scattered through various scientific publications, but the majority of the shells here described are new to science. This comparative neglect has one advantage, which is, that the whole can be done without a troublesome synonymy. There are other advantages in describing species in their native country. Mistakes as to the habitat are thus avoided by the examination of large collections, all the variations to which any species is subject can be observed, and details which in isolated specimens might be regarded as of specific value are rightly estimated, and the unnecessary multiplication of species obviated. For this reason I am sure that it is no real gain to science to send one or two natural history specimens to scientific men at home no matter how eminent they may be. In this way, a hopeless confusion of names and habitats arises, no accurate knowledge is gained, and science is, in fact, really retarded. I say this because in the very subject I am now writing upon, I find in various eminent scientific works descriptions of Australian freshwater shells, which I have very little doubt were derived from Tasmania; and, further, I also find shells described as Tasmanian, which the most careful and painstaking collectors assure me have never been found in this island. Such instances I will note as I proceed.

The first fact that strikes us in the examination of the freshwater fauna of Tasmania is its perfect distinctness from that of Australia. The latter is well marked, and there is the greatest distinctness between shells gathered in different parts of the continent. But with this fact there is another still more remarkable, that one of the Tasmanian *Physæ*, and that the most common seems scarcely to be distinguished from the common *Physa fontinalis* of Europe, and it is found in places which preclude the supposition of its having been introduced. Moreover the *facies* or general character of our freshwater

shells is not Australian, which certainly is most singular, considering that the geographical relations of the two places are so close. These facts, however, are quite in keeping with the teachings of both the zoology and geology of Tasmania, namely, that the island has been separated from the continent in very remote periods of the earth's history, perhaps since the close of the mesozoic.

Secondly, we find in the freshwater shells of Tasmania a singularly restricted habitat for some species, and an unaccountably capricious distribution for others. Thus some species are only found in small inland lakes, and others are found in one restricted habitat, and then strangely reappear at other and remote parts of the island, while between the two localities there seems to be no present communication. Every species, too, which has a wide range has a local variety. It would seem from these facts that the present physical features of Tasmania have undergone little change in recent times, but the outpouring of lavas, etc., in tertiary times, of which there is such evidence, has altered some of the inland characters, and so divided districts which may have been formerly united in their freshwater streams. This, however, is merely a supposition, which is only one of many which may be offered in explanation of the phenomena.

There are in all 32 species of freshwater known shells in Tasmania, that is to say, 28 univalves and 4 bivalves; the proportion of bivalves to univalves for Britain is 29 to 9. The Tasmanian species are distributed in the following genera:—Physa, 12; Limnea, 4; Bythinia, 7; Ancylus, 2; Pomiatopsis, 1; Planorbis, 1; Assiminea, 1. The latter is a very doubtfully referred to freshwater, being usually found only in brackish streams. Still, as it seems to live in streams where the tidal influence of the salt water is scarcely felt, I must place the one Tasmanian species amongst the list of our freshwater fauna.

Of the genera, Physa is the largest in number, and this is the case also in Australia, where it takes the place occupied by Limnea elsewhere. But the Australian species are generally very globose with short spires or with a peculiar elongation of the penultimate whorl, with a deeply impressed suture, and these features are not marked in the Tasmanian species. Their form rather approximates to the European and American types. The only exception is in *P. ciliata*, which has a short spire, and in the Bruny Island variety a globose habit. Those from Lake Dulverton are not globose. This species is also remarkable for being clothed with long reddish hairs in its young state, a feature not seen in any other of its congeners except one from India. It is very strange that this species is only found in Lake Dulverton and Bruny Island, places more

than eighty miles apart, and separated by an arm of the sea. In Lake Dulverton is found *P. mamillata*, which is also found in Bruni Island. I may here remark that a variety of the latter exactly corresponding with Sowerby's *P. attenuata* is found in the same lake, and though described as coming from Australia, Mr. W. Legrand assures me it came from Lake Dulverton, as it was sent to Mr. Sowerby from Tasmania by Mr. Legrand. Under these circumstances, the species and name should be suppressed, but the matter is one for Australian naturalists. The common Physa of Tasmania I have named *P. tasmanica*. It varies very much according to the place in which it is found, and is closely allied to *P. fontinalis* of Europe. The number of Physas (12) for such a small island is very large, and it may be that some of the species will yet need reduction, yet it must be remembered that Tasmania is an extremely mountainous country. The ridges acting as complete barriers between different parts of the island.

The genus *Bythinia* contains species which may possibly need further reduction. Some authors have referred those species, of which the Tasmanian creeks, etc., are so full, to the genus *Paludestrina*. Under the head of that genus I have given my reasons for classing them as I have done. The partly calcareous operculum appears to me, in the absence of the animal, decisive of the point. Two species of *Paludestrina* have been described by Mr. Brazier as from Tasmania in the Zoological Society's proceedings, but I have never been able to find any collector who has seen them. I therefore conclude there is some mistake in the habitat. Nevertheless I have included them in the list, hoping that future investigations may throw some light on the point.

The four species of *Limnea* do not call for any remark except that they are local and very distinct from any European or Australian congeners.

The two species of *Ancylus* are very remarkable, in fact, Tasmania can boast of the largest and finest species of *Ancylus* known, being so distinct from every other species, that at one time it was proposed to erect a separate genus for its reception. The other species in no way resembles it, being small and inconspicuous.

The other genera have nothing peculiar about them. They are the representatives of European species in our streams. It is said that our *Pomiatopsis* is found in Australia, but as there it is claimed as a *Blanfordia*, the identification is doubtful.

It is remarkable that there is only one *Unio* in Tasmania, and that is entirely restricted to rivers emptying themselves on the north side of the island.

Altogether the fresh water shells of Tasmania present a novel and peculiar character which, when carefully studied, may help to explain much of the distinctive zoology and geology of the island. So far as my observations go, its results seem more adverse than favourable to the Darwinian hypothesis, but the nature of this paper prevents my stating at any length the reasons which incline one to this opinion.

UNIVALVES. ANCYLUS. GEOFFROY, 1767.

(Traite des coquilles de Paris par Etienne Louis Geoffroy, Paris, 1767.)

*Testa tenuis, oblique conica, apice acuto, posterius inflexo, apertura ovali; marginibus simplicissimis.*

Shell thin, obliquely conical, apex acute, posteriorly inflated, aperture oval with quite simple margins.

These freshwater limpets are air breathers, and not numerous in species. They are found, says Mons. Bourguignat (who has made the genus the subject of a most elaborate paper in the Zool. Soc. Proceed. for 1853 p. 77) in all the great divisions of the world, but the section *Velletia* has hitherto only been found in Europe. About 50 species are known.

ANCYLUS CUMINGIANUS, Bourguignat (loc. cit.) *A. testa antice gibboso-convexa, postice concava, apice recurvo, contorto, ad marginem aperture lateralem dextrorsus dejecto, ac duos anfractos præbente; anfractibus depressionem apicalem convexitate penultimi obtegentibus. Testa parum diaphana, levi vel striata, præsertim ad aperturam; anfractibus apicis sæpissimi rugoso-radiatis; epidermide supra cornea vel virescente, intus albida; apertura subangulato-rotundata.*

Shell gibbosely convex anteriorly, posteriorly concave, apex recurved, twisted and dextrally turned down to the lateral margin of the aperture, so as to make two whorls; whorls covering the apical depression by the convexity of the penultimate. Shell slightly diaphanous, smooth or striate about the aperture, the apical whorls very often rugosely radiate, epidermis greenish or horny above, white within; aperture subangulately rounded. Length 6—7. Breadth, 5—5½. Alt., 2½—3 mill. But specimens have been placed in my hands by Mr. Legrand of nearly double this measurement.

This species is truly the finest *Ancylus* known, having no congeners in any way approaching it. *Latia neritoides* of New Zealand may be compared with it in some respects. Its peculiar features are its size, the excessive deviation of the apex, its peculiar spiral apex, its mode of growth and the form of its aperture. These separate it completely from all species hitherto known. Habitat, in streams between New Norfolk and Hamilton. The large ones referred to from a small

stream running into the Derwent near Dunrobin.—*R. Maddock*.

*ANCYLUS TASMANICUS*. n.s. *A. testa parva, oblongo-ovata, diaphana, cornea, concentrico striata, et subtilissime rugoso-radiata, epidermide nigro plus minusve induta et maculata, apice obtuso, postico; apertura postice subatenuata.*

Shell small, ovate, diaphanous horny, concentrically striate and very faintly rugosely radiate, more or less covered and spotted with a black epidermis, apex obtuse, posterior aperture subatenuate posteriorly. Long., 3—3½. Lat., 1½—2. Alt., 1½—2.

Common near Hobart Town in streams, on stems of watercress (*Nasturtium officinale*.)

#### LIMNÆA. LAMARCK, 1799.

*Testa oblonga, interdum turrata; spira exserta, apertura integra, longitudinalis. Labrum acutum, inferne ad sinistram revertens et ascendens, in columellam versus aperturam decurrit, plicamque obliquam mentitur. Operculum nullum.* Hist. Nat. des Anim. s. Verteb. 2 edit par Deshayes et Milne Edwards. Paris, 1838.

Shell oblong, sometimes turreted, spire exsert. Aperture entire, longitudinal. Outer lip acute returning to the left, and ascending decurrent with the columella towards the aperture making a false oblique plait. No operculum.

The Limnææ are world-wide in their distribution, and inhabit ponds, lakes, and running water. The species have a wide distribution, so that it is difficult to distinguish between those found in America and Europe. Sowerby says that the Australian species have generally an inflated form, while Lovell Reeve (Land and Freshw. Moll of Brit. p. 155) says, "In India, neighbourhood of Calcutta, the shell is cylindrically oblong. In Malayan Islands and Punjaub districts of India it is of a peculiarly silvery horny substance, marked with opaque white brown streaks. Western Asia, north of the Himalayas, over the whole of Europe, extending to Greenland, and over all the United States, the Limnææ produce a dull horny malleated shell. The inland waters of Central America and Australia have few Limnææ. They are chiefly inhabited by Physæ.

1. *LIMNÆA TASMANICA* n.s. *P. testa tenni, pellucida, eleganter pyramidata, corneo-fulva; spira elevata, acuminata, apertura longitudine, paulo superanti; anfractibus (5-8) obliquis; ultimo anfracto inflato; apertura late ovata; labio externo tenuissimo, fragilis; labio interno subexpanso, plica inconspicua, columella alba, vix contorta.*

P. shell thin, pellucid, elegantly pyramidal, horny fulvous; spire elevated acuminated, aperture little larger than the

spire, whorls 5 to 8, oblique, last whorl inflated, aperture widely ovate; outer lip extremely thin, fragile; inner lip somewhat expanded, columella fold inconspicuous; columella white, scarcely twisted. Long. 25. Lat. 12. Apert. 15 mill. But this is a large size.

Habitat.—Everywhere in South Tasmania about Hobart. This shell is very like *Limnæa stagnalis*, Linn, but the spire is not so attenuated, the aperture not nearly so expanded, the columella fold is inconspicuous, the columella white, and the shell much smaller and thinner. It also comes near some American species.

2. *LIMNÆA HUONENSIS*. *L. testa tenuissima, pellucida, nitida, ventricosa, pallide cornea, rectiuscula, spira brevi, acuta; anfractibus (4) productis, labio externo tenuissimo, acuto; labio interno expanso; plica contorta, columella arcuata.*

Shell very thin, pellucid, shining, ventricose, pale horny, rather straight, spire short, acute, whorls 4, penultimate whorl rounded; last whorl large, concave behind the columella, aperture ovate, produced; outer lip very thin, acute; inner lip expanded, fold twisted, columella arched. Long. 8. Lat.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ . Apert. 5 mill.

Habitat, River Huon, upper part, Craycroft River, &c. This very interesting species comes somewhat near *L. pinguis* of America.

3. *LIMNÆA HOBARTONENSIS*, n.s. *L. testa ventricosa, subumbilicata, obliqua, pallide-cornea, spira brevi, anfractibus 4, duobus apicalibus parvis, rotundis, penultimo majusculo, ultimo inflato; post columellam concavo, apertura obliqua, pyriformi, antice oblique expansa; labio externo tenui; labio interno vix expanso, plica quasi obsoleta.*

L. shell ventricose, subumbilicate, oblique, horny, spire short, whorls four, the two apical ones small, rounded, the penultimate somewhat larger, the last inflated; concave behind, the columellar aperture pyriform, obliquely expanded in front, outer lip thin, inner lip expanded, columellar plait almost obsolete. Long. 11. Lat. 8. Aperture 9 mill.

Habitat, very common about waterworks near Hobarton. Closely allied to preceding, but the spire is more conspicuous and the shell oblique, more solid, and altogether larger.

4. *LIMNÆA LAUNCESTONENSIS* n.s. *L. testa tenuissima, pellucida, alba, nitidissima, ventricosa, rectiuscula; spira brevi, acuta; anfractibus 4, ultimo magno, post columellam concavo; apertura pyriformi; labio externo expanso, acuto, fragilis; columella arcuata, plica inconspicua.*

Shell very thin, pellucid, white, very shiny, ventricose, somewhat straight, spire short, acute, whorls four, last large, concave behind the columella; aperture pyriform; outer lip

expanded, acute, fragile; columella arched, plait inconspicuous. Long. 15. Lat. 9. Aperture 11 mill.

Habitat, Creek near Launceston. While in habit this shell much resembles the two preceding it is larger and of shining white or silvery lustre. I also think that there are signs of a band circling the shell formed by two parallel lines.

## PHYSA.

*Genus Physa* Draparnaud. *Hist. Nat. des Moll. &c., de la France, 1805.*

*Testa fluviatilis, cornea, tenuis, spiralis, sinistrorsa, plerumque ovato-acuminata; labio externo acuto, simplici; labio interno expanso, cum columella continuo; columella contorta, uniplicata, operculum nullum.*

Shell fluviatile, horny, thin, spiral, sinistral, generally ovate, acuminate; outer lip expanded, continuous with the columella; columella tortuous, singly-plaited. No operculum.

The Physæ may be considered sinistral or reversed Limneadæ. They are most numerous in warm countries, but are found in Britain. The usual species are found in Europe and South Africa, and they prefer running streams.

1. *P. APERTA.* *P. testa parva, brevi, ovata, inflata, epidermide olivaceo-fusca induta; spira brevissima, anfractibus duobus, ultimo inflato, superne sub-gibboso; apertura magna, lata, intus sub cærulea, columella contorta, plica prominula.*

Shell small, short, ovate, inflated, covered with an olive brown epidermis; spire very short, with two whorls, last whorl inflated, rather gibbous above: aperture large, broad, bluish within, columella tortuous, fold rather prominent. Sowerby, in Reeve's Icon. Plate xi., figs 88, a b.

Habitat, creeks between Hamilton and New Norfolk, Tasmania.

2. *P. EBURNEA.* *P. testa gracili, obliqua, subfusiformi, polita, alba, fulvescenti, semipellucida; spira acuminata, quam apertura longiori; anfractibus obliquis, declivibus, attenuatis; apertura breviuscula, subauriformi, intus fusco rubescenti; columella contorta, alba medio interdum incrassata.*

Shell slender, oblique, rather fusiform, polished white fawn, semipellucid; spire acuminate, longer than the aperture, whorls oblique, sloped, attenuated; rather short, sub-auriform, reddish brown within, columella tortuous, white, sometimes thickened in the middle.

Sowerby, in Reeve's Icon. Pl. xi., figs 89 a. b.

Habitat, creeks near Launceston.

3. *PHYSA MAMILLATA.* *P. testa elongata, fusca, antice subco-pana; spira quam apertura breviuscula; anfractibus apicalibus*

*minutis, acuminatis, antepenultimo inflato gibboso, penultimo inflato, gibboso, elongato; ultimo anfractu attenuato, subcylindrico, antice oblique subexpanso; apertura oblonga, intus subviolacea, columella tenui, contorta, plica elevata.*

Shell elongated, brown, anteriorly somewhat expanded, spire a little shorter than aperture, spiral whorls minute, acuminated, antepenultimate inflated, gibbous, penultimate inflated; last whorl attenuated subcylindrical, anteriorly obliquely rather expanded, aperture oblong, rather violet within, columella thin, tortuous plait elevated. Length 27; breadth at aperture 7 mill.

Sowerby, in Reeve's Icon. Pl. xi., fig 90.

Habitat, Lake Dulverton.

4. *P. NITIDA.* Sowerby. *P. testa parva, subfusiformi, pallide fulva, laevigata, obliqua; spira breviuscula, anfrac. apicalibus acuminatis, parvis, penultimo inflato; ultimo anfrac. ovato, tumidiusculo, antice rotundato; apertura ovato, columellu contorta, plica inconspicua.*

P. shell small, subfusiform, pale, fulvous, smooth, oblique; spire rather short, spiral whorls acuminated, small, the penultimate inflated; last whorl ovate, rather tumid, anteriorly rounded; aperture ovate, columella tortuous, plait inconspicuous. Length from 6 to 9, breadth from 3 to 4½ mill.

Reeves' Icon. Pl. xii., figs 98 a. b.

Habitat, in creeks S. E. Tasmania.

5. *P. BRUNIENSIS.* Sowerby. *P. testa parva, oblonga, angusta, pellucida, nitenti; spira breviuscula, anfrac. 3, distinctis, prope suturam gibbosis, ultimo oblongo; apertura angustiuscula, columella tenuissima, plica, inconspicua.*

P. shell, small, oblong, narrow, pellucid, shining; spire rather short, whorls three, distinct, gibbous near the suture, the last oblong; aperture, rather narrow, columella very thin, plait inconspicuous.

Habitat, Bruni Island. Reeve Icon., pl xii., fig. 99.

6. *PHYSA VANDIEMENENSIS.* Sow. *P. testa solida, subquadrata, fumoso-cornea; spira brevi, anfrac. paucis, subangulatis; ultimo anfractu oblongo, prope suturam angulato; apertura subquadrata, intus obscure purpurascenti; labio externo antice expanso, columella contorta, recurva.*

P. shell solid, rather square, smoky horn color; spire short, whorls few, subangular; last whorl oblong, angular near the suture; aperture squarish, dull purplish within, outer lip anteriorly expanded, columella tortuous, turned backward. Length 17. Breadth 8.

Habitat, northern Tasmania. I have never seen this species.

Reeve's Icon. Pl. viii. fig. 57.

Sowerby remarks of this species that its oblong, square,



angular form is unusual in the genus, but that this only appears strongly in mature specimens.

7. *PHYSA HUONENSIS*, n. s. *P. testa, parva ovato-fusiformi, pellucida, nitente cornea; spira subproducta; anfr. (5), apicalibus acuminatis, parvis, penultimo longiusculo; apertura producta, auriformis; columella tenui, arcuata, plica vix visibilis.*

P. shell small, ovately fusiform, pellucid, shining, horny; spire sub-produced; whorls (5) the spiral acuminated, small, penultimate somewhat long, aperture produced, auriform; columella thin, arched, fold scarcely visible. Long. 8, Lat. 3. Aperture, 4 mill.

This shell is very distinct from *P. bruniensis* being larger and having the aperture regularly produced, but it has much the same habit.

Habitat, Huon River, near Victoria. Legrand.

8. *PHYSA LEGRANDI*, n. s. *P. testa fusiformi, acuminata, tenuiter striata, subpellucida, pallide fulva, in partibus fusca; spira producta, attenuata, apice acuminato; anfrac (6) obliquis, attenuatis; ultimo anfractu oblongo; apertura producta, auriformis, columella arcuata, plica conspicua.*

P. shell fusiform, acuminated, finely striated; sub-pellucid, pale brown, dusky in parts; spire produced, attenuated; apex acuminated, whorls 6, oblique, attenuated, last oblong; aperture produced, auriform, columella arched, plait conspicuous. Length 15, breadth 7 mill.

This shell, which may be a large variety of the next species, has the acuminate oblique habit, which may be said to be the typical form of so many Australian and Tasmanian species.

Habitat, creeks Cambridge, near Richmond, Tasmania.

9. *PHYSA TASMANICA*, n. s., *P. testa ovata, tenui, nitenti, pellucida, pallide fulva, rufa, fusco-subviridi, olivacea vel fusco-cornea, pallide lutea et subalba; spira brevi, acuminata; anfractibus (5) declivis; apertura obliqua; columello alba, tenui, contorta, plica subconspicua; labio interno tenuissimo, recurvo, cum columella continuo.*

P. shell ovate, thin, shining, pellucid, pale fulvous, or reddish or brownish green, or olive, or horny brown, occasionally pale yellow and almost white; spire short, acuminated; whorls, five, sloping; aperture oblique; columella white, thin, twisted, plaits rather conspicuous; inner lip very thin, recurved, and continuous with the columella. Length from 8 to 13 mill., breadth from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mill.

This shell which appears to have escaped the notice of previous naturalists is the common *Physa* of the country, and is found in all the inland streams. It is, however, so closely allied to the *Physa fontinalis* which is diffused over Great Britain and Europe that we may well doubt if it be distinct. If not, has it been introduced? It is very hard to suppose

this seeing the remote places where it is found. The shell varies much in color according to the locality. Specimens from streams near the Great Lake are reddish, those from the Clyde olive, and the Coal River specimens very varied. Five varieties, with many examples of each, were furnished me by Mr. Legrand. To judge from the figure alone in Reeve's Icon. the species would be taken for *P. nitida*, but the latter is a much smaller shell, with a wider aperture and more globose habit.

10. *PHYSA CILLATA* n.s. *P. testa subovata, fusco-cornea, longitudinaliter striata, lineis spiralibus, sub-distantibus, ciliatis, cincta; spira brevi, acuminata, anfrac. (5) declivis, penultimo inflato; apertura subovata, magna; columella alba, plica conspicua.*

P. shell subovate, horny brown, striate lengthwise, girdled with spiral subdistant ciliated lines; spire short, acuminate; whorls five, sloping, penultimate inflated, aperture subovate, large; columella white, plait conspicuous. Length 17 mill., breadth 8 mill.

Habitat, Lake Dulverton, and Bruni Island.

This ciliated form is quite exceptional in the genus, only one other being found in India. That species is, however, cancellate, and of a different color, with an angulated aperture, though in general form not unlike the present species.

11. *PHYSA TASMANICOLA* n.s. *P. testa minutissima, ovata, long: striata, luteo-cornea, pellucida; spira breviuscula, anfrac. (4) distinctis, declivis, ultimo oblongo; apertura angustiuscula, columella tenui, plica inconspicua, labio interno cum columella continuo, recurvo.*

P. shell very small, ovate, longitudinally striate, yellowish horny, pellucid; spire short; whorls four, distinct sloping; last whorl oblong, aperture rather narrow, columella thin, plait inconspicuous, inner lip continuous with the columella and recurved. Length 4, breadth 2 mill.

Habitat, found by the Rev. H. D. Atkinson in a water-hole, Mount Murray, East Coast.

This species is closely allied to *P. bruniensis* but is a stouter shell, more globose, not gibbous at the sutures, and not with the peculiar shining brilliancy of that shell.

12. *PHYSA HUONICOLA*, n.s., *P. testa gracilis, angusta, fusiformi, fulva, nitida, intus albida, solidiuscula, spira elongata, anfractibus (6), obliquis, apicalibus parvis, plica columellari obsoleta; labio externo sinuato; labio interno albo, reflexo.*

P. shell graceful narrow fusiform, fulvous, shining, whitish within, somewhat solid, spire elongated, whorls (6) oblique, apical ones small, columella fold obsolete; outer lip sinuous, inner lip white, reflexed. Length 15, breadth 5 mill. Proportionate length and width of aperture to whole dimensions, length 6—15, width 3—5.

Habitat, Upper Huon River. A very distinct fusiform species much larger and more solid than *P. huonensis*.

BYTHINIA. GRAY. 1821.

*Testa turbinato-conica subumbilicata, fulvo-virida, pellucida, levigata anfractibus 5-7, plus minusve rotundatis, epidermidè obscure cornèa indutis; apertura pyriformè-ovata, integrà.*

Shell turbinately conical, subumbilicate, fulvous green, pellucid, smooth; whorls 5 to 7, more or less rounded; clothed with an obscurely horny epidermis, aperture pyriformly ovate, entire.

It has been generally believed that no *Bythinia* exists in Australia and Tasmania, and the shells here described have been classed by some naturalists as *Paludestrina*, D'Orbigny. This genus was, however, erected for semi-globose solid thick shells with a short obtuse spire, and a callous columella, with which description none of the following would agree. But they do agree with Gray's genus of *Bythinia*, especially in this that the operculum is partly horny and partly, as far as I have been able to ascertain, calcareous. This feature should, it seems, enhance the importance of the other details in assigning a true position to the shells. It is a fact, however, that we have in the freshwater streams of Tasmania many species of a univalve spiral shelled mollusc so like the *Bythinia* of Europe, Asia, North Africa, and North America, that I am forced to include them in that genus, and believe that Australia is not an exception to the world wide diffusion of *Bythinia*. The Tasmanian species are all very small.

1. BYTHINIA LEGRANDI, n. s. *B. testa minima, solidiuscula, elongato-conica, epidermidè incompleta, obscure olivacea, spira obtusa; anfractibus (5-5½) rotundatis, apertura producta integra, pellucida, margine acuto.*

Shell small, somewhat solid, elongately conical, with an obscurely olive, incomplete epidermis; spire obtuse, whorls (5 to 5½) rounded, aperture entire, produced, pellucid, margin acute. Length, 2; breadth, 1 mill.

Habitat, Brown's River.

This shell is distinguished by its size, solidity, obtuseness, and few whorls. It retains these characters so constantly under every circumstance that it cannot be regarded as a mere variety.

2. BYTHINIA PONTVILLENSIS, n. s. *B. testa turbinato conica, obtusa, pellucida, nitida, fulvo-cornea epidermidè pallide lutea, anfractibus, (6) rotundatis, ultimo anfractu sub-inflato, apertura ovato, ab ultimo anfractu disjuncta.*

Shell turbinately conical, obtuse, pellucid, shining fulvous, horny, with a pale yellow epidermis; whorls (6) rounded,

last whorl subinflated, aperture ovate, disjoined from the last whorl. Length, 3; breadth, 1 mill.

Habitat, Jordan River, near Brighton. Augustus Simson.

A very distinct but small species, with the whorls sometimes almost entirely separate.

3. *BYTHINIA DULVERTONENSIS*, n. s. *B. testa turbinato-conica, fulva, epidermidé alba, spira obtusa, anfractibus (6) rotundatis; apertura ovata, superné angulata, integra, ab anfractu distincta, intus albida.*

Shell turbinately conical, fulvous, with a white epidermis; spire obtuse, whorls (6) rounded, aperture ovate, angulated above, entire, distinct from the whorl, whitish within. Length 3; breadth 2 mill.

Habitat, Lake Dulverton. More turbate than any of the preceding species. Under the microscope the epidermis is found to consist of small, oval, silvery scales.

4. *BYTHINIA HUONENSIS*, n. s. *B. testa elongata, pyramidata, attenuata, fumoso-cornea, nitida, epidermidé fusca; spira elevata acuminata, anfractibus (8) vix obliquis, duobus apicalibus aliquando subinflatis, apertura pyriformi; labio interno reflexo.*

Shell elongate pyramidal, attenuate, smoky horn, shining, with a blackish epidermis; spire elevated, acuminated, whorls (8), scarcely oblique; the two apical sometimes inflated, aperture pyriform; inner lip reflected. Length 4. Breadth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mill.

Habitat, Huon River. A very distinct and interesting species, with a pyramidal habit.

5. *BYTHINIA UNICARINATA*, n. s. *B. testa elongato-conica, tenui, semi-pellucida, fumoso-cornea, anfractibus (6) rotundatis, duobus ultimis unicarinatis, carina interrupta; apertura ovata, integra crassiuscula.*

Shell elongately conical, thin, semi-pellucid, smoky horn, whorls (6) rounded, two last with one interrupted keel; aperture ovate, centre somewhat thickened. Length 4. Breadth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mill.

Salmon Ponds—Not common.

6. *BYTHINIA DUNROBINENSIS*, n. s. *B. testa elongato-pyramidata, tenui, pellucida, albida, epidermidé pallide rufa vel atra maculata; anfractibus (6) planatis regulariter decrescentibus; spira obtusa; apertura pyriformi, integra; labio interno superné reflexo.*

Shell elongately pyramidal, thin, pellucid, whitish, spotted with pale or black epidermis; whorls (6) regularly decreasing; spire obtuse, aperture pyriform; inner lip reflected above. Length, 3; breadth, 1 mill.

The Ouse near Dunrobin. A pale narrow shell longer and more slender than any of its congeners.

7. *BYTHINIA TASMANICA*, n. s. *B. testa turbinato-conica, solidius-*

*cula, olivacea; densè squamata, squamis minutissimis, nigris, ovatis; spira acuta; anfractibus (6) rotundatis, regulariter decrescentibus; apertura integra, ovata.*

Shell turbinately conical, somewhat solid, olive, thickly covered with very minute shining ovate scales; spire acute; whorls (6) rounded, regularly decreasing, aperture ovate, entire. Length 4, width 2 mill.

Habitat, creeks throughout Tasmania. In old specimens especially near Hobarton the scales are a good deal hidden by green deposits of confervoid spores.

#### POMIATOPSIS. TRYON.

(Contributions to Conchology. New York, 1862.)

*Testa parva tenui, levigata, elongata, subumbilicata; spira turrita, apertura ovata; labio interno reflexo. Operculum corneum.*

Shell small, thin, smooth elongate, sub-umbilicate. Spire turreted. Aperture ovate, inner lip reflected. Operculum horny.

1. POMIATOPSIS STRIATULA. Menke (Moll. Nov. Holl. p. 9. Cox. mon. 1862 p. 95. Pl. xv. fig. 13 a.b.c.) *P. testa pyramidata (sæpe truncata), tenui, opaca, carneo-alba, intus rufo-fulva; anfractibus rotundatis, regulariter decrescentibus; spira obtusa; apertura ovata, crassiuscula, integra; labio interno ab anfractu ultimo disjuncto.*

Shell pyramidal, often truncate, thin, opaque, fleshy white, inside reddish brown, whorls (6) rounded, regularly decreasing, spire obtuse, aperture ovate, somewhat thickened, entire, inner lip distinct from the last whorl. Length 7, breadth 3 mill.

Habitat, Muddy and Clarence Plains, Rev. H. D. Atkinson. This shell was described as *Blanfordia* by Dr. Cox, as it was thought to be a land shell, but the *Pomiatopsinæ* are amphibious. This specimen is said to be found in South Australia, Victoria, and elsewhere. I believe I have found it in the interior of the continent in freshwater swamps in the Murray deserts, South Eastern district, &c.

#### ASSIMINEA. LEACH.

(A synopsis of Moll. of G. Brit. Lond., 1820.)

*Testa pyramidè-conica, solidiuscula umbilicata, umbilico parvo et ferè occulto; anfractibus levigatis declivis convexis ad basim obtusè angulatis apertura integra, ad anfr. ultim. adherenti, columella tenuiter callosa. Operculum corneum.*

Shell pyramidally conical, somewhat solid, umbilicate, umbilicus minute, small and nearly hidden, whorls smooth, sloping convex, obtusely angular at the base, aperture entire, ad-

hering to the last whorl. Columella thinly callous. Operculum horny.

Assimineæ was first discovered in the Bay of Naples and afterwards in Britain. Several allied forms occur in India and China. There is a globose form in Chili, and the genus appears to be represented by *Amnicola* in N. America. But as the determination of the genus rests more upon the structure of the animal than the shell, and as the new European species have not been examined, the identification must remain doubtful. For the information of observers who may pursue the subject, the following is the description of the animal. Body small; head produced into a ringed muzzle notched in front, *tentacles short, united with the eye pedicels and bearing the eye at the summit*, foot ample, broad in front, short and rather obtuse behind, carrying a slight horny, few whorled operculum.

1. *ASSIMINEA TASMANICA* n.s. *A testa turbinato-conica, parva, opaca, pallide viridi, intus fulva; epidermidè olivacea (sæpè corròsà); spira acuta; anfractibus (5) planatis, apertura fulva.*

Shell turbinately conical, small, opaque, pale green, fulvous within with an olive epidermis (often corroded), spire acute, whorls (5) flattened, aperture, columella, and callosity fulvous. Length 4, breadth 2 mill.

Habitat, Sorell, a somewhat solid shell with much the habit of a small *Littorina*.

#### PLANORBIS. GUETTARD.

(De la Classification des Coq. Paris 1756.)

*Testa discoidea, spira depressa vix prominula; anfractibus omnibus utrinque conspicuis, apertura oblonga, lunata, ab axe remotissima; margine nunquam reflexo; operculum nullum.*

Shell discoid, compressed, spire scarcely prominent, whorls all visible on both sides. Aperture oblong, remote from the axis, margin never reflected, no operculum.

Freshwater shells of world-wide distribution. The species also have a wide range. More than 100 are known and they are very abundant in America. The variations from the typical form are not numerous. There are two or three known in Australia but only one in Tasmania, and this appears to have escaped previous observers.

1. *PLANORBIS TASMANICUS* n.s. *P. discoidea, minuta, planata, tenuis, superne convexa, inferne umbilicata, confertim sinuato-striata, nitida, pellucida, pallide cornea, anfractibus (4—4½) convexis, ul basim dilatatis; sutura profunda; apertura ovata, obliqua; peristoma simplex sinuato. Diam. maj. 5, alt. 1, min. 3½ mil.*

Shell discoidal, minute, flattened, thin, convex above, umbilicate below, thickly sinuately striate, shining pellucid, pale

horny; whorls 4 to  $4\frac{1}{2}$ , convex, dilated at the base, suture deep, aperture ovate, oblique, peristome simple, sinuated. Diam. 5., base  $3\frac{1}{2}$ , height 1 mill.

Habitat, still waters throughout the island.

### PALUDESTRINA.

Under the head of this genus Mr. John Brazier, C.M.Z.S., has described the following species (See Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, for the year 1871, page 696, "Descriptions of seven new species of *Helix*, and of two fluviatile shells from Tasmania, by John Brazier, C.M.Z.S.):—

*PALUDESTRINA LEGRANDIANA*.—Shell elongately conical, thin, semi-pellucid, greenish horn color, under a dark epidermis; whorls  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , somewhat flattened, the last three keeled between the suture, and furnished with small, solid, stunted hair-like spires, (as seen under the lens) of a bright, transparent horn color, flattened on the top; aperture ovate, margins continuous, thickened, outer lip reflected. Length  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines. Breadth  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lines. Hab., Salmon Ponds, New Norfolk, Tasmania (Legrand.) This species is allied to *Paludestrina Salleana*, Fischer from Auckland, New Zealand.

*PALUDESTRINA WISEMANIANA*.—Shell elongately conical, thin, semi-diaphanous, epidermis light green; apex acute; whorls 6 to  $6\frac{1}{2}$ ; convex smooth, grooved at the suture; aperture ovate; margins continuous, moderately thickened, columellar margin reflected, outer lip edged with green and reflected. Length 2 lines. Breadth 1 line. Hab., near Hobart Town, Tasmania, common in all creeks. Legrand and Petterd."

So far Mr. Brazier, but I must add that I have been unable to find either of the above shells nor anything resembling them in Mr. Legrand's extensive collections. I am unable to communicate with Mr. Brazier, as he has sailed for New Guinea in Mr. McLeay's expedition. I am obliged, therefore, to conclude that some mistake has occurred in transmitting the specimens. No such shells exist in Tasmania as far as at present known.

### BIVALVES.

#### UNIO. PHILIPPSON.

*UNIO MORETONICUS*, Sow. *U. testa late oblonga, latere antico declivirotondato, postico oblique angulato, deinde oblique truncato; fusco nigricante.*

Shell broadly oblong, anterior side slopingly rounded, posterior obtusely angled, then obliquely truncated; fuscous black. Length 70, breadth 41, height 30 mill.

Tasmania, in the northern rivers, but not in the southern. The name has been applied under the idea that it is found in

Moreton Bay, Queensland, which is not the case. It appears that young specimens of *Unio cucumoides*, which occurs there very much resemble our species. This is probably the origin of the erroneous habitat in Reeve. It would be rather singular to find a Tasmanian species in a river on the Australian continent more than 1,400 miles away, and in no intermediate locality.

PISIDIUM. PFEIFFER.

(Systematische Anordnung und Beschreibung Deutscher Land und Wasserschnecken, &c., Cassel et Berlin 1821—28, 3 vols. 40.)

*Testa tenuis aequalis, inaequalis, anticé producta, epidermide olivaceo-cornea induta, concentricé rugosa vel striata, intus albida, umbonibus prominentibus, tumidis, ligamentum subexternum, inconspicuum, latere minore insertum; dentibus cardinalibus minimis, in utráque valva duobus divergentibus, in una valva binis, subdistantibus subelongatis; in altera quatuor duobus veré exiguis; impressionibus muscularibus duobus, lateralibus; in impressione pallii sinu nullo.*

Shell thin equivalve inequilateral, produced in front, covered with an olive epidermis, concentrically rugose or striate, whitish within, umbones prominent, tumid, ligament subexternal, inconspicuous, inserted in the shorter side, with two small hinge teeth in each valve, one of which is double in one valve, lateral teeth distant and somewhat elongate, muscular impressions two, with no pallial sinus.

This genus was separated from *Cyelas* on account of the difference of the siphonic tubes, and of the shells which in *Pisidium* are smaller, with the anterior side the longer, and the ligament on the shorter side.

They are found throughout Europe abundantly, but the foreign species are not well known, though India and New Zealand both possess species.

PISIDIUM TASMANICUM, n.s. *P. testa orbiculato-ovata, tenuis, ventricosa, pellucida, albida, regulariter concentricé striata, inequilateralis, utrinque rotundata; latere antico subproducto, postico obtuse rotundato, umbonibus obtusis, ligamentum inconspicuum.*

Shell ovate, thin, ventricose, pellucid, whitish, regularly concentrically striate, inequilateral, or rounded on both sides; anterior side subproduced, posterior rounded obtusely, umbones obtuse, ligament inconspicuous. Length from 2 to 4; breadth  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ ; height 1 to 2 mill.

Habitat, Brown's River, Great Lake, Lake Dulverton, Dunrobin, and creeks near Hobarton. A small fragile shell in which the epidermis is not easily discovered. The specimens vary in size, and those from the Lakes are larger, a little more oblong, with shades of smoky horn, but I have never seen enough divergence of character to warrant the erection of more than one species.



PISIDIUM DULVERTONENSIS, n.s., *P. ovata, tenuis, ventricosa, rufiflora, nitida, regulariter concentricè striata; inequilateralis, luteo antice producto, subangulato; postice obtuse rotundato et subangulato; umbonibus prominentibus.*

Shell ovate, thin, ventricose, fulvous-red, shining, regularly concentrically striate, inequilateral, anterior side produced, subangulate, posterior obtusely rounded and subangulate, umbones prominent. Length 7; breadth  $5\frac{1}{2}$ ; height,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mill.

This remarkable species is much larger and different in color from the preceding. It is more angular in outline and more oblong. Like all the species from Lake Dulverton it is quite restricted in its habitat.

CYCLAS. KLEIN. (pars). 1753.

*Testa ut supra (vide descript. Pisid. generis) ligamentum tamen latere majore insertum.*

Shell as above in Pisidium, but the ligament is inserted in the longer side.

CYCLAS TASMANICA, n.s. *C. testa subquadrata, ventricosa, tenui, nitida, carneo-lutea, intus alba; eleganter striata; sulcis 3 vel 4 transversis, subcoloratis; umbonibus prominentibus sub-obliquis.*

Shell subquadrate, ventricose, thin, shining, fleshy yellow, white inside, elegantly striate, with 3 or 4 silver-like bands of colour which are lines of growth. Umbones prominent, sub-oblique. Length 9. Breadth  $7\frac{1}{2}$ . Height 5 mill.

Habitat, east coast, near Swansea. A very remarkable but somewhat small Cyclas, the only one known in Tasmania.

The following *Valvata* was found by Mr. Augustus Simson in a small trickling stream in Gould's Country, north-eastern Tasmania. It is the first *Valvata* known in the island, or in Australia.

*VALVATA TASMANICA.* n.s. *V.t. minuta, globosé turbinata, profunde lateque umbilicata, pallide cornea, epidermide atrato maculata, solidiuscula, semipellucida; anfractibus 4, rotundatis, tenuissime undulosé striatis, ad suturas subcanaliculatis; apertura semilunari, reflexa, postice angulata; labro medio producto, antice subverso; labio recto tenui; umbilico marginato. Operculum corneum, ovale, spirale.*

Long. 1. Lat. 1, millimeter.

V. shell minute, globosely turbinate, deeply and widely umbilicate, pale horny, spotted with a blackish epidermis, rather solid, semipellucid, whorls 4, rounded, faintly undulately striate, subcanaliculate at the sutures; aperture semi-lunate, subreflexed, posteriorly angulate, outer lip produced in the middle, subverted anteriorly, inner lip straight and thin, umbilicus margined. Operculum horny, oval, and subspiral.