

REPORT ON THE GASSIES COLLECTION OF *PISIDIA* IN THE
MUSEE D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE DE BORDEAUX.

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Read 13th January, 1922.

THROUGH the kindness of Monsieur le Maire and Professor J. Chaine, of Bordeaux, I have recently been enabled to make a thorough examination of a small collection of *Pisidia* presented to the Museum of that city by J. B. Gassies, circa 1859.

The collection comprises thirteen card-tablets, upon which the shells are mounted with gum and labelled in Gassies's writing. Each tablet bears a number and these numbers correspond with the numbers attached by Gassies to the species recorded in his "Catalogue Raisonné des Mollusques terrestres et d'eau douce de la Gironde", 1859. In his earlier papers—"Mollusques terrestres et d'eau douce de l'Agenais", March, 1849, and "Description des *Pisidies* observées a l'état vivant dans la region Aquitanique de Sud-Ouest de la France", 1855—Gassies described numerous new species of *Pisidium*, namely *P. limosum*, 1849, and *P. intermedium*, *P. pallidum*, *P. Jaudouinianum*, and *P. globulosum*, 1855. Of these five species only the two first mentioned are referred to in his paper of 1859, or represented in the collection. Likewise the following species—*P. Normandianum* Dupuy, referred to by Gassies in 1849, and *P. Dupuyanum* Normand, referred to in 1855—are neither represented in the collection nor mentioned in his 1859 paper. Whether Gassies had by the year 1859 given up these species, or whether he did not consider they lived in the restricted area of "La Gironde", I am unable to discover. The fact remains that the collection throws no light on the question what these species were, with the exception of *P. limosum* and *P. intermedium*, both of which are represented in the collection, the latter as a separate species, the former as a variety of *P. casertanum*, Poli.

Some shells seem to have been removed from the cards subsequent (?) to their presentation to the Museum at Bordeaux, while in two cases additional shells mounted on blue strips of paper would appear to have been added. The whole collection would also seem to have been examined, either by the late Dr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys or by some one who considered he was well acquainted with this author's view of the *Pisidia*, as on the back of the cards are, in some cases, notes added in pencil, after which the words "Teste Jeffreys" frequently follow. Whether this means that Jeffreys expressed a personal opinion on the shells as the words would indicate, or whether we are to read them merely as meaning "according to Jeffreys in British Conchology", I have no means of deciding.

The titles on the cards and a list of the *Pisidia* mounted thereon are as follows :—

Card No. 130, "*P. amnicum*. *Tellina*, Müller.

Eau Bourde, St. Médart, Garonne, Isle Moron."¹

Six shells in perfect condition.

Typical *P. amnicum* in various stages of growth.

Card No. 130B. "*P. amnicum*, var. *B. sulcata*, Gassies.

Estes des Landes, de la Gironde."

One shell; perfect.

A half-grown shell of *P. amnicum* with no traces of sulcation: in fact, a particularly smooth example.

Card No. 131. "*Pis. intermedium*, Gassies. *Ex auctore*.

Marcamps, Bassens, Créon."

Three specimens: perfect.

Typical of the shell usually known as *intermedium*; I have opened the two largest, and have no hesitation in referring this species of Gassies's to a large race of *P. casertanum*. The chief characters of the hinge of this form are the long, rather narrow ligament pit; the long sweeping laterals and the proportionately small cardinal teeth. I have made drawings of the left-hand shell (the largest of the three) on the card, and propose to regard it as Gassies's type of *P. intermedium*.

Card No. 132. "*Pis. casertanum*. *Cardium*. Poli.

Libourne, St. Emilion, Blaye, &c."

10 perfect shells; 3 perfect valves (1½ pair); and 2 partly broken shells. The right valve at the right-hand side of the bottom row (i.e. the last shell on the card) belongs to *P. nitidum*, Jenyns. All the rest are referable to *P. casertanum*; but various forms are represented and it is evident that the specimens are from various localities. On the back of the card is scribbled in pencil:

"Var. maj. / fontinale. / Teste Jeffreys. / *P. fontinalis*
Nilss. 1822. / *P. casertanum* Poli / 1791!!"

Card No. 132B. "*P. casertanum* var. *B. = P. limosum*, Gassies.

Libourne—St. Emilion—Blaye, &c."

6 shells in perfect condition.

Originally there would appear to have been three shells stuck on the card—the first of these has disappeared—and under these is written in ink a figure "1" where the first shell was and a figure "2" under each of the others. On the back of the card is written in ink (over pencil) "1. *Pusillum* Jen. / fid. Jeffr. 2. *P. fontinalis* / fid. Jeffreyss [sic]. / is. *casertanum* / var. *limosum*? G." When (?) the first shell was removed the note "1" on back appears to have been struck out in ink. The two shells referred to as "2" "2" are both *P. personatum*, Malm,² 1855. Both belong to a

¹ I have copied the exact title on each card.

² *Fide* B. B. Woodward, Cat. Brit. Pisidia.

rather thin and fragile form. The right-hand shell I have made drawings of and propose as the type of Gassies's *limosum*; it may be known by the broken ventral edge of the left valve. 4 shells stuck on blue paper, are small *P. casertanum*. These, evidently a subsequent addition, make up the present total of six shells on the card.

Card No. 132c. "*P. casertanum*, var. C. = *P. cinereum*, Alder. Pont de la Maye—Gradignan."

5 perfect shells and 1 left valve.

Under the fourth is a figure "3", and on the back of the card is written in ink (over a pencil scribble "nitidum") "3. nitidum Jen. / (Fide Jeffr.)" This fourth shell ("3") certainly did look like *P. nitidum* before I opened it, as did also the next shell to it (the third), but upon examination of the hinges they both proved to be small very equilateral examples of *P. casertanum*, and I have but little doubt that they are river-shells. The other three shells and the odd left valve are ordinary *P. casertanum*, similar to the smaller shells on the card No. 132. They are, of course, equally referable to *P. cinereum* of Alder, which is synonymous with *P. casertanum*.

Card No. 133. "*Pis. pulchellum*, Jennyns [sic].

Bruges—Allées Boutant, &c."

6 shells: perfect.

All the six shells are *P. subtruncatum*, Malm, but as Jenyns included this species as a var. of his *P. pulchellum*, they are not therefore wrongly named.

Card No. 134. "*P. Henslowianum*, Typus. *Tellina*, Shepp.

Cycl. appendiculata Leach. La Garonne. Paillet-Langon."

6 perfect shells and 1 odd right valve.

The first shell on the card is a beautiful example of the veritable *P. pulchellum* of Jenyns. The second is a very thickened, small shell, referable to *P. supinum*, A. Schmidt (= *P. conicum*, Baudon). The third is a small (not adult) *P. henslowianum*, Sheppard. The remainder, including the odd valve, are all *P. subtruncatum*, Malm. On the back of the card is scribbled "fontinalis", in pencil.

Card No. 134B. "*P. Henslowianum*. Var. B. nonappendiculée Gass. Langoiran. Rare."

4 perfect shells and a space where a fifth had been.

The first shell is a remarkable example of *P. nitidum*, Jenyns, referable to a large oval form of my var. *crassa*. The second shell is a beautiful *P. casertanum* var. *ponderosa* mihi.¹ The third and fourth are correspondingly thickened shells of *P. subtruncatum*, Malm.

¹ See Journal of Conchology, vol. xv, 1918, p. 294, pl. vii, f. 31-34



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