

NOTE ON *LANISTES MAGNUS*, FURTADO.

By EDGAR A. SMITH, I.S.O.

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THIS species was described¹ from a single specimen collected by the Portuguese explorers, Messrs. Capello and Ivens, in the River Luapula in North-Eastern Rhodesia. The British Museum last year received two specimens from Mr. R. L. Harger which he obtained from the same river. He observes that "these molluscs constitute the main food of the Stork (*Anastomus lamelligerus*), which birds probe the mud and sudded marshes in flocks of hundreds, leaving the surface strewn with broken and whitened shells, so that perfect specimens can only be found by feeling about in the mud and water vegetation."

This is the largest known species of the genus *Lanistes*, and is chiefly distinguished from other species by its great size. The two shells obtained by Mr. Harger differ somewhat in form and sculpture from the type, having a shorter spire and a broader body-whorl, and besides the strong lines of growth the surface in places is more or less distinctly malleated. The periostracum of one specimen is of the ordinary olivaceous tint common to many species, but in the other example which is older it is quite black, although not a dead shell. The operculum is very thin, yellowish horny beneath, and coated above with a thin dirty whitish incrustation. For so large a shell it is decidedly small, and does not close up the aperture until it has been drawn within fully two inches from the peristome.

¹ Journ. de Conch., 1886, vol. xxxiv, p. 147, pl. vi, fig. 3.



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