

THE OCCURRENCE OF *EUGYRINA GIGANTEA* (LAM.) IN
BRITISH WATERS.

By the Rev. A. H. COOKE, Sc.D., F.Z.S.

Read 12th November, 1915.

By the kindness of a friend I have come into possession of a specimen of *Eugyrina* (formerly known as *Ranella*) *gigantea*, Lam., from British waters. The specimen, which was alive when taken, measures exactly 5 inches in length, and still retains the operculum. It was trawled (there were several specimens in all) in the deep trough (50 to 100 fathoms) off the Saltees lightship, between Carnsore Point and St. David's Head, in company with *Cassidaria rugosa*, L.

Unless I am mistaken, the discovery of this species constitutes an important addition to the British marine molluscan fauna.

Five specimens were exhibited before the Conchological Society in May, 1915, having been dredged alive off the south-west coast of Ireland in deep water, also with *C. rugosa*. But no precise statement is published¹ as to the locality, which may or may not have been within the British marine area. In any case, the present specimen comes from waters which are essentially British, and the locality is by far the most northern hitherto recorded.

The species is common in the Mediterranean, and it is probably an accident that all Weinkauff's localities (ii, 71) are west of Tarentum. Kobelt (Iconogr. ii, 1901, pp. 11-13) records it from the Atlantic only up to the mouth of the Tagus. The *Travailleur* had many years before dredged it in the Bay of Biscay (Jeffreys, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. v, vol. vi, 1880, p. 318). Dautzenberg records² it from the voyage of the *Hirondelle* (1886), from various localities in the Bay of Biscay, from lat. 43° 12' to 45° 48' N. and long. 5° 58' to 11° 52' W., at depths varying from 160 to 510 metres, in fine sand, coarse gravel, mud, and rock. He also adds that it was met with in the Gulf of Gascony by the *Travailleur* and the *Porcupine*, and that it is frequently brought up by the fishing-boats from off Arcachon.

Finally, A. Reynell, recording the results of the cruise of the S.S. *Huxley* to the northern side of the Bay of Biscay in August, 1906, mentions³ *Ranella gigantea* as dredged in 109 fathoms (four living specimens—two male, two female) from lat. 47° 48' N., long. 7° 46' W., adding "the most northerly habitat of this species so far recorded".

It appears doubtful whether Locard's view will hold good, that the Atlantic shells differ sufficiently from the Mediterranean to justify the constitution of two varieties, *atlantica* and *mediterranea*. The form *atlantica* is said to occur in the post-Pliocene of Italy.

In accordance with Dall's classification⁴ of the Ranellidæ and Tritonidæ, the *Ranella gigantea* of Lamarck is now separated from the former group, and is at present the sole occupant in the British Museum Collection of the genus *Eugyrina* of Dall.

¹ Journ. of Conch., xiv, 1915, p. 366.

² Mém. Soc. Zool. France, iv, 1891, p. 607.

³ Journ. Mar. Biol. Assoc., viii, 1909, p. 378.

⁴ Smithsonian Coll., xlvii, 1904, pp. 114-44.



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