

NOTES ON A FEW SHELLS.

BY C. F. ANCEY.

Prof. H. A. Pilsbry has described and figured a few years ago (Proc. Acad. Nat. Sciences, Phila., 1901, p. 632, pl. xxxvi, fig. 30-41) a Japanese *Clausilia* which he called *Cl. oscariana*, in honor of Dr. Oscar Boettger, the well-known German writer on *Clausiliæ*. He was probably unaware that a Chinese species of this genus received the same name from P. V. Gredler (Zur Conchylien-Fauna von China. xvii Stück, Wien, 1892, p. 8), who, curiously enough, has dedicated his species to Dr. O. von Möllendorff whose Christian name is Otto not Oscar. At all events, the name *Oscariana* cannot stand for the Japanese *Clausilia*, this homonym having several years of priority. Hence, I propose to substitute for it the name *Clausilia pilsbryana* Anc.

I must also call attention to *Claus. oscari* Thiesse (Bttg., Proc. Zoöl. Soc. 1883, p. 34, fig. 16) a somewhat distinct form of *Cl. schuchi*, v. Voith, perhaps entitled to specific rank, though Dr. Westermund (Fauna der in der Paläarktischen region lebenden Binnen-Conchylien, iv, p. 140) calls this a variety of *Cl. schuchi*.

Terebra histrio Desh., was described (Journ. de Conch. 1857, pl. iv, fig. 11) without a locality, from a specimen in Deshayes' collection. I have procured a fine specimen collected on the coast of Senegal together with *T. bitorquata* Desh., already known as West African, *Drillia rosacea* Reeve, *Marginella petiti* Duval, *M. goodalli* Sow., *M. cleryi*, Petit. My example, consisting of 16 whorls, is 42 mill. long and 10 mill. wide. For the identification I am indebted to Mr. Ph. Dautzenberg.

Natica prietoi Hidalgo (Journ. Conch. xxi, p. 332, Moll. Esp., pl. 20B, figs. 2-3), a very rare shell, discovered on the coast of Southern Spain, was found again by myself at Algiers. I secured a large, somewhat worn example and a smaller one very perfect. With this I detected a specimen of another scarce species worthy of record, viz., *Scalaria candidissima*, Monterosato.

Drymæus nubilus Preston, of which I have purchased a specimen from the author, who described it in the "Journal of Malacology," vol. x, no. 1, March 1903, appears to be absolutely the same as *Drymæus recluzianus* Pfr., var. *martensianus* Pils., from Costa Rica, which of course has the priority.

Helicina pterophora Sykes (Proc. Malac. Soc. of London, vol. v, no. 1, 1902, p. 20, fig.), from Guatemala, appears not to differ essentially from *H. oxyrhyncha* Crosse and Debeaux, from unknown locality. The shells labelled *oxyrhyncha* in the collection of the British Museum, from Bonacca Island, Honduras, are hardly referable to this species, hence, I suppose that Mr. Sykes has been misled in considering his species *pterophora* as distinct from the true *oxyrhyncha*. An example of the latter in my collection is quite typical, lacking the colored bands of *pterophora* and uniform yellow.

NOTES AND NEWS.

SNAILS AND SLUGS IN THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ENCYCLOPÆDIA.—In *The Dial* (Chicago) of Nov. 16, 1904, I took occasion to set forth the character of some of the articles on scientific subjects found in the most recent Encyclopædias. The article "slug" was examined in a number of them, with interesting results. I said, however, "the 'New International' and the 'Encyclopædia Americana' have not yet reached the letter S, so we cannot tell what surprises they have in store for us." The former of these has now come to S, and to-day I turned with interest to "slug." The common *Agriolimax campestris* appears as "*Lima campestris*" though one would think a campestrian *Lima* might find it difficult to exist! We are also told that slugs are "vegetable eaters," without qualification. Turning over the article "snail," I find a colored plate of American snails. The generic nomenclature is almost pre-historic, "*Helix*" covering three different families, not to speak of genera. Thus we have *Helix fuliginosa*, *Helix alternata*, etc. We also have *Bulimus dealbatus* and *Bulimus fasciatus*.

Now all this is stupid enough, and it seems fitting for those who



1904. "Notes on a few shells." *The Nautilus* 18, 21–22.

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