

NOTE ON A VERY LARGE SPECIMEN OF *HIPPOPUS HIPPOPUS*  
AND ON LARGE SPECIMENS OF *TRIDACNA GIGAS*.

By EDGAR A. SMITH, F.Z.S., etc.

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WHAT may be regarded as full-grown specimens of this species usually average from 6 to 9 inches in length, and the largest hitherto recorded measured 10 inches. Küster,<sup>1</sup> in his Monograph of this genus, gives  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches as the length, whilst the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods<sup>2</sup> observed a specimen upon the reefs at Port Douglas, N.E. Australia, which was 10 inches long. The largest example in the British Museum is  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, 19 in circumference, and weighs 4 lbs. 5 ozs., whereas a specimen recently acquired from the Philippine Islands is  $13\frac{1}{4}$  inches long, 30 round, and 16 lbs. 9 ozs. in weight.<sup>3</sup> Although only  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches longer than our largest specimen, the difference which is indicated by the contrast in the weight is very conspicuous. The shell itself does not differ materially from ordinary specimens, but is somewhat pointed and produced posteriorly, so that the position of the umbones is relatively less central, being  $4\frac{1}{4}$  inches from the anterior extremity of the shell, that is, only  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch more remote than in the  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inch specimen. They are also unusually incurved, so that the tips are fully an inch from the hinge-line, whereas in ordinary specimens they almost touch it. Another feature noticeable is the shallower grooves within the valves that correspond to the external ribs, and the more feeble sulcation of the intervening spaces. The specimen is much incrustated with various marine growths, and more or less worm-eaten and water-worn, but the characteristic purple-red spotting is observable near the umbones.

Although quite small in comparison with the so-called *Tridacna gigas*, the present specimen, with the exception of some of the *Pinnas*, probably ranks next in size among living bivalves. A few examples of *Ostrea* and *Ætheria* may be longer, but then they are narrow and lighter.

<sup>1</sup> Conch. Cab., 1868, Monog. *Tridacna* and *Hippopus*, p. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, 1880, vol. v, pp. 124-5.

<sup>3</sup> Messrs. Sowerby & Fulton have another specimen  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches long.

In conclusion, it may be of interest to refer to some of the large examples of *Tridacna gigas* which have been recorded.

	Weight.	Length.
British Museum specimen ... ..	310 lbs. ...	36 inches.
Specimen mentioned by Linnæus <sup>1</sup> ...	498 ,, ...	—? ,,
"      "      " Dillwyn <sup>2</sup> ...	507 ,, ...	54 ,,
"      "      " Dall <sup>3</sup> ...	528 ,, ...	36 ,,
"      "      " Fischer <sup>4</sup> ...	550 ,, ...	34½ ,, <sup>5</sup>

Although the quoted size of the specimen mentioned by Dillwyn seems remarkable, I should be inclined to believe it correct. The relatively smaller weight in proportion to the size is not important, for the specimen in the Museum, although as long as that mentioned by Dall, weighs 218 lbs. less.

Finally, I may mention that a specimen in the window of Rule's Restaurant, Maiden Lane, Covent Garden, is 40 ins. long and weighs 434 lbs.<sup>6</sup> In this instance also, the weight, in proportion to the size, is much greater than that of the Museum specimen.

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<sup>1</sup> Syst. Nat., ed. xii, p. 1,137.

<sup>2</sup> Cat. Recent Shells, p. 214; also Solander's MSS., vol. v, in Brit. Mus. (Nat. Hist.).

<sup>3</sup> American Naturalist, vol. xvi, p. 698.

<sup>4</sup> Man. Conch., p. 1,035.

<sup>5</sup> This measurement has kindly been obtained for me by Mons. Ph. Dautzenberg.

<sup>6</sup> Particulars kindly furnished by Mr. M. W. O'Brien, proprietor of the Restaurant.

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