

NOTES.

NOTE ON AN ABNORMAL SPECIMEN OF *NAUTILUS POMPILIUS*. (*Read 10th December, 1909.*)—This specimen is figured by Dr. Arthur Willey (*Zoological Results*, pt. vi, p. 812, fig. 15). It was given to him at Ralum in New Britain. It is divided into two nearly equal halves by a sub-median groove, not unlike that in *Pleurotomaria*. The groove extends from the edge of the lip round the periphery of the shell and within the aperture as far as the eye can follow it. Dr. Willey observes: "I am unable to decide whether it was due to an injury to the mantle or to some congenital malformation."

I am of opinion, however, that it is due to an injury to the mantle, for I have seen in other specimens of *N. pompilius* similar grooves, but less pronounced, commencing at different places, and in one example three such grooves occur, two, about an inch apart, starting from the same growth-line, and the third about $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches nearer the lip of the shell. Such injuries to the mantle, resulting in these abnormalities, might easily be caused by the bite of a fish or the nip of a Crustacean.

Mr. G. C. Crick has shown me an almost similar abnormality in a specimen of the Eocene *N. Mokattamensis*, Foord, from Mokattam Range, near Cairo.

E. A. SMITH.

NOTE ON THE EGG-CAPSULES OF *MELO*. (*Read 14th January, 1910.*)—Mr. A. J. Jukes-Browne has very kindly placed in my hands some egg-capsules of a species of *Melo* from Dunk Island off the North Queensland coast, and as nothing appears to have been written upon the egg-stage of that genus the following few observations may be of some interest.

Although it has been stated by Gray¹ that the animal of *Melo* is oviparous, I have failed to discover the source of his information. On the contrary, the Messrs. H. & A. Adams² observe that "the animal of this genus appears to be ovo-viviparous, the same as *Cymbium* of Klein, the young ones being arranged in the oviduct of the female in a long string, without egg-shells". This statement is copied by Tryon,³ and it might also be inferred from what appears in Fischer's *Manuel de Conch.*, p. 606, that the animal is viviparous.

The observations, however, of Mr. J. Banfield, who collected the cluster of egg-capsules, part of which is now exhibited and described in a letter to Mr. Jukes-Browne, remove all doubt upon the matter. He himself has given some account of these capsules in his interesting book entitled *The Confessions of a Beachcomber*.

The mass of egg-cases was cast up on the shore attached to a piece of coral. It was $16\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, $12\frac{3}{4}$ in circumference at one end, narrowing to 7 at the other. It weighed $1\frac{3}{4}$ lb., and consisted of 126 separate cells or capsules. These are conical in form, the rounded apices being free and turned inwards, the bases external and connected with one another, but not always completely, so that irregular openings occur

¹ Proc. Zool. Soc., 1855, p. 53; List of Mollusca, Brit. Mus. Volutidæ, p. 4; Guide to Moll. Brit. Mus. (1857), p. 33.

² Genera Moll., vol. i, p. 158.

³ Man. Conch., vol. iv, p. 80.



Smith, E. A. 1910. "NOTE ON THE EGG-CAPSULES OF MELO." *Proceedings of the Malacological Society of London* 9, 4-4.

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