

## Mollusca of the "Chevert" Expedition.

By J. BRAZIER, C.M.Z.S., Corr. M.R.S. Tas., &amp;c., &amp;c.

## TURBO SUPRAGRANOSUS.

*Trochus (Gibbula) supragranosus*, Smith, Journal Linn. Society, London, Zoology, Vol. XII, p. 558, pl. XXX, fig. 15.

*Hab.* Barnard and Fitzroy Islands, North East Australia; Sue and Dungeness Islands, Torres Straits; Makera Harbour, San Christoval; also, Florida Island, Solomon Islands, found under stones; Percy Island No. II, North East Australia, brought up in the dredge from 18 fathoms.

Mr. Edgar A. Smith remarks that one of the chief peculiarities of this species is that the spiral liræ on the last whorl near the middle run in pairs; the lirations on the spire become granulose as the apex is approached; the brown or pinkish brown stripes which flow downwards from the suture are interrupted somewhat by the transverse sulci, and thus appear as oblong dots on the liræ. On the back of the body whorl, not far from the lip, is a large brown or pinkish brown stain. Mr. Smith places it in the family of *Trochidæ*. I have examined the operculum and find it to be calcareous, therefore place it in the family *Turbinidæ*. In 1865, I found it very plentiful at Florida Island; a great number of specimens were obtained at Darnley Island, in Torres Straits, (dead) at the depth of 25 to 30 fathoms; a few also were obtained at Palm Island, North East Australia, at 8 fathoms sandy mud bottom, specimens lighter in colour.

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## DRAWINGS BY AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES.

By J. C. Cox, M.D., F.L.S., &amp;c.

Plates 15 and 16.

The drawings on sheets of bark, which I have laid before the Society this evening, were obtained from the natives on Essington Island, on the north coast of Australia. The aborigines of the Australian continent appear to have been in the habit of painting



on a similar material; unfortunately, owing to the perishable nature of the bark and to the pigment used, commonly pipeclay, being easily defaced, few of these illustrations have been saved. Mr. Brough Smythe has, however, been successful in preserving some few of these relics, and has figured them in the valuable work which he has just published on the habits and customs of the natives of Victoria. I have on several occasions seen in caves, drawings of various objects made by the natives, with outlines of lizards and kangaroo, &c., these latter invariably on a small scale, and all associated with the well-known "red hand"—but I have never met with, until now, such large drawings of animals on sheets of bark, as those I now place before the Society. I have indeed seen even larger sheets of the same material, but these were ornamented by the natives with angular figures painted with red, white, and yellow clay, and a colouring matter, which is obtained from the inside of lumps of ironstone, similar to that used in former times by the aborigines to cover their bodies with. I fancy the only use made of such drawings as these must be to render their meetings more attractive when dancing before the fire in the wild gesticulations of a corroboree, or they may be drawn for amusement when confined to their caves by the inclemency of weather, certainly not made to ornament their gunya's as we, our rooms, with pictures.

Figs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, plate 15, are all on one sheet of bark, about 2 feet 2 inches long, and 10 inches wide.

Fig. 1, plate 15, the figure of a turtle. The body of this figure is red, and the pattern lines are white; measuring 7 inches long and 7 broad.

Fig. 2, plate 15, also the figure of a tortoise,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and 6 wide. This figure is yellow, and has defaced white lines running slantingly across it, and two more defaced lines running from the head to the tail.

Fig. 3 is yellow, outlined with a white margin, possibly intended for the figure of a man; it measures about 6 inches long. The hands of this figure are furnished with six fingers; the posterior limbs are more like the posterior ends of a seal than human legs.



Fig. 4, plate 15, the figure of a lizard. This figure is yellow edged with white, and measures about 9 inches long.

Fig. 5, plate 15, also the figure of a reptile of the lizard type, measuring  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. The color is red and the spots are white.

Fig. 6, plate 15, a diminutive figure of a man, 3 inches long, with extended arms and fingers; this figure is yellow and white.

Fig. 7, plate 15, the figure of a bird, like a heron; measuring 16 inches long and  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inch wide, on a piece of bark by itself, 20 by 12 inches. The outline of the bird is drawn with white pipe-clay, and the feathers are represented by mixed yellow and white lines. The feet of the bird are represented with four toes each.

Figs. 8 and 9, plate 15, are frogs, on one sheet of bark, 18 inches long. Figure 8 measures 5 inches in length. The groundwork of this figure is white, outlined with red.

Fig. 9, plate 15, is  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches long; the groundwork white, the outlines and sculptured markings are red. The animal is depicted with five toes on each limb; the eyes are very prominent, and it is furnished with genital appendages.

Fig. 10, plate 15, is on a sheet of bark by itself, about 4 feet long. I can only suppose this figure to represent the skin of a man. The figure is 2 feet 9 inches long and 1 foot wide; the figure is white, and the outlines and pattern marks and cross lines and spots are red; there are six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot; the legs are folded back from the knee; the head is represented by a triangular shaped figure, possibly to illustrate the skin taken from the back of the head. This figure is also with genital appendages.

Another figure of a Lizard.—Not represented in the plate, on a separate sheet of bark, has the body 14 inches long and 4 broad at the middle, but one inch broader at the posterior than at the anterior extremity. The head is spindle-shaped, slightly curved to the left, truncated at the apex, and has an ornamental serrated crest of white and yellow running from above downwards for about the middle half. The head is joined to the body by a comparatively short slender neck, 3 inches long, and from either side of the base of the neck a



front limb or arm is attached, sloping backwards, bearing a large broad five fingered hand ; the arm proper is only one inch long, and the wrist, hand and fingers are four inches long, and the arm is separated from the hand by three transverse yellow lines. The posterior end of the body terminates in a tail 13 inches long, bent towards the left, bluntly tapered to the extremity, and serrated on either side with white and yellow for about two-thirds the length. Where the tail joins the body, a posterior limb is attached, sloping backwards, and measuring to the tips of the five toes, eight inches ; the foot is separated, as in the front limb at the wrist, from the leg by three cross yellow lines. The figure is painted throughout with white pipeclay, and is margined at all parts with a yellow line also of coloured clay. This figure is on the inside of a sheet of bark 5 feet long.

Fig. 11, plate 15, is the representation of a tortoise,  $13\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide, on a separate sheet of bark, 2 feet 6 inches long. The groundwork of the figure is white ; the outline red, and is profusely ornamented with coloured spots and cross bars.

Fig. 12, plate 16. The figure of a large reptile of the lizard tribe by itself, on a sheet of bark 3 feet 6 inches long ; the figure measures 3 feet 2 inches, and is three inches wide in the middle ; the body, tail, and legs are white, edged with red ; the diamond-shaped pattern on the body is depicted with red lines ; down the centre of the body a red line runs from the neck to the base of the tail, which is dotted with yellow ; the ground colour of the head is red, and the fringe is yellow ; the transverse lines at the junction of the head with the body, and the cross-pattern, are red. The front limbs, which are represented as articulated at the neck, are small, white, and edged with red ; they have a proportionally very large hand and five long fingers, there are two transverse red lines at the wrist. The posterior limbs are larger than the anterior, painted in the same style, one has five fingers, one four. There is a broad red band across the base of the body, and another where the arms are articulated, and one where the tail joins it. The tail is long, tapering, white, lined with red, bent to the right, and has a fringe of



yellow on the convex surface. The narrow band of red across the lower part of the body has along the lower edge of it a row of yellow spots.

Figs. 13, 14 and 15, plate 16, are all on one sheet of bark, 2 feet 3 inches long. Fig. 13 is probably that of the *Ornithorhynchus*, or else a large sleepy lizard. It is 14 inches long and 3 wide. The figure is white, the margin of which is lined with red.

Fig. 14 is a turtle, 12 inches long and 8 wide; the ground colour is white and the transverse markings and patch of spots down the centre of the back are yellow and red.

Fig. 15 is the figure of a frog, about 10 inches long; the colour is white and faintly lined with red on the body. There are five fingers represented on each of the arms; on one of the legs there are a crowd of toes represented, while the other only has four.

Fig. 16, plate 16. The figure of a long necked tortoise, on a sheet of bark by itself; the groundwork of the figure is white, and the body is ornamented throughout with curved and transverse red and yellow lines; the neck is represented bent, very long, and ornamented with longitudinal red and yellow lines; the head is small, with eyes, represented by two red spots; the limbs are ornamented with a series of irregular transverse and cross red and yellow lines. The length of the sheet of bark on which this figure is drawn is 2 feet 6 inches long and 12 inches broad; the figure itself is 1 foot 6 inches long and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide.

Fig. 17, plate 16. The representation of a bird—I presume that of a cassowary. It is on a sheet of bark, 14 inches wide by two feet long; the height of the figure is 1 foot 4 inches, and the width from the head to the tail 12 inches. The figure is white, margined by a thick red line; the space between the legs is yellow; the eye and mouth are drawn as by one long rather broad red line; another oval red patch represents the craw, and a smaller one the anus; there are also two rounded spots of red at the knee joints, and a broad long patch from the knee to the foot.



Fig. 18, plate 16. The most elaborate of all the drawings figured is that of a dugong, on a piece of bark,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet long; the figure is white, ornamented with yellow lines, and blue and yellow patches, and blue and yellow spots, which are generally in regular rows; the body is broadly spindle-shaped; the head is wedge-shaped the broad end of the wedge being upwards; there are two flappers attached to the body just below the junction of the head with the body, and a large V shaped tail; the eyes are represented by two semi-lunate yellow patches, one on each side of the head; the dark wedge-shaped patch shown in the figure covering the upper end of the body, and stretching up over the neck in a point towards the head is dark blue, so also are the three lines on the front part of the head; the spots on the head are blue, while those on the flappers are yellow; the three zig-zag lines down the back are yellow, and the spaces enclosed by them; the spots outside the lines, on the sides of the body are blue; the spots round the edge of the body and tail are yellow, but the larger spots on the hinder part of the body and on the tail are blue. The length of the figure is  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and the body is almost 5 inches at its widest part.

#### EXHIBITS.

Mr. Brazier, C.M.Z.S., exhibited rare specimens of shells collected by Mr. F. L. Button, of Arkland, California, namely, *Machaera patula*, from Oregon, *Mya hemphilli*, *Schizothærus Huttalli*, *Pecten monotimeris*, *P. æquisulcatus*, from North California, *P. hastatus* (very rare) from Puget Sound, Washington Territory, *Helix Carpenteri* (very rare) from Coronados Island, 32° North latitude, *H. facta*, Santa Barbara Island, south coast of California.

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The President, Mr. W. J. Stephens, M.A., said he was desirous to give as much publicity as possible to an attempt now being made by the Rev. T. C. Atkin, of Campbelltown, to introduce the study of practical botany among the young people of his



Cox, James Charles. 1878. "Drawings by Australian aborigines." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 3, 155–160.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.22232>.

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