

rather narrow velvety black band; this is preceded on each side by a transverse white line which, close to the suture, gives off an oblique white line in the direction of the basal tubercle; and in the angle thus formed, which has an inner fulvous-brown border, there is a third very short white line. The part of the elytra between the innermost oblique lines is velvety black. With the exception of a narrow bluish-grey transverse spot the whole of the elytra succeeding the median black band is covered by a delicate fulvous-brown pubescence. The elytra are furnished in addition with some widely scattered long fulvous bristles. A few punctures are to be seen on the basal third. A pubescent white line passes along the dorsal margin of each of the legs. The femora are subfusiform, pedunculate at the base.

This species at first sight resembles very much *A. bicuspis*, Chev., but is easily distinguished by the difference in the punctuation of the elytra and other characters.

LV.—*Descriptions of four new Species of Terrestrial Mollusca from South Africa, with Observations on Helix Huttoniæ* (Bens.). By JAMES COSMO MELVILL, M.A., F.L.S., and JOHN HENRY PONSONBY, F.Z.S.

AMONGST numerous specimens of terrestrial and fluviatile shells recently collected at or near Port Elizabeth by Mr. J. Crawford are many undoubtedly new to science. Some of these were in the first instance placed in the hands of M. Morelet, who last year contributed a paper on this subject to the 'Journal de Conchyliologie.' Since then Mr. Crawford, who has received much valuable assistance from Messrs. Farquhar, Leslie, and Langley, from various neighbouring localities, has remitted fresh material, of which the following four species may be regarded as the primary outcome; and we are hoping before long to offer a second communication with further descriptions of other forms new to science.

We must not forget to thank Mr. Edgar A. Smith, F.Z.S., of the Zoological Department, British Museum, for kind assistance.

*Vitrina cingulata*, sp. nov.

V. testa globulosa, convexa, tenui, olivaceo-hyalina, supra peripheriam distinctissime rubro-cingulata; spira emersa; anfractibus lævibus, subventricosis; apertura subrotundata.

Long. 15, lat. 20 mill.

*Hab.* Port Elizabeth.



This extremely handsome species is most nearly allied to *V. Cumingii* (Beck) from the Philippines, and no doubt would by some authors be placed in the genus *Helicarion*. Dr. Bøettger, who has obligingly examined our specimens, confirms our opinion as to its distinctness from any hitherto known species. From *V. Pæppigii* (Menke), which it resembles in form, it differs in its larger size and smooth surface; from *V. cornea* (Pfr.), in addition to the above-mentioned particulars, in being of a different form, thicker substance, and possessing a less oblique aperture.

*Vitrina zonamydra*, sp. nov.

*V.* testa globosa, convexa, robustiore quam *V. cingulata*, fuscescente, supra peripheriam obscure fusco-cingulata; spira convexa, ampliore quam in specie præcedente (*V. cingulata*); anfractibus ventricosis, lævibus; apertura subrotunda.

Long. 10, lat. 17 mill.

*Hab.* Port Elizabeth.

This species differs from the preceding in its duller, more robust substance, ampler convexity of whorls, difference in colour, and extremely indistinct brown-red band, which is barely visible without close inspection. It is easily distinguished from specimens of *V. natalensis* (Kr.), with which, however, it has affinity.

*Helix (Pella) Huttoniæ* (Benson).

Upon carefully examining numerous specimens under this label in the National Collection, we were convinced firstly that it is a true *Vitrina*, and secondly that three series of shells from Port Elizabeth that we had at one time considered true species should be relegated to varietal rank as follows:—

*Vitrina Huttoniæ* (Bens.).

Var. *a. rufofilosa*, var. nov.

*V.* testa subglobosa, pallide hyalina, tenui; spira convexa, conspicua; anfractibus subconvexis, lævibus, tenuissime arcuatim striatis, ad peripheriam rubro-lineatis; apertura ovata.

Long. 10, lat. 14 mill.

*Hab.* Port Elizabeth.

This form may possibly have been confounded with *V. pellicula* (Fér.), a native of the Cape region; it is not diffi-



cult, however, to always discriminate them. We have seen a good many specimens of this, which is probably one of the commonest of the genus in its locality, and they are all uniformly conspicuous for the red turgid character of the suture at the periphery.

Var. *β. meridionalis*, var. nov.

*V. testa* pulcherrime hyalina, tenuissima, pallide straminea, lævi; spira convexa; anfractibus lævibus, rotundis, nitidis; apertura ovata.

Long. 10, lat. 12 mill.

*Hab.* Port Elizabeth.

From the first var. (*rufofilosa*) this form differs in its smaller size, more glossy texture, greater smoothness of whorls, and entire absence of the red margined suture. It is likewise much flatter.

Var. *γ. aloicola*, var. nov.

*V. testa* depresse subovata, olivaceo-cornea, parum nitente; spira convexa, planulata; anfractibus subrotundatis, læviusculis; apertura lunari-ovata.

Long. 12, lat. 16 mill.

*Hab.* Port Elizabeth (frequens!).

This differs from the two preceding in being of more depressed and flattened growth and olivaceous horny texture; it is also a coarser-moulded shell. It is known amongst Port-Elizabeth collectors as the Aloe snail, since it feeds on the Liliaceous plants (*Aloe*, *Haworthia*, &c.) which so abound on the arid rocky plains around.

We are by no means sure that these three all belong to *V. Huttoniæ* (Bens.), and would invite the attention of collectors to these puzzling forms, in the hope that especial regard may be paid to the animal.

We should at present place the South-African species of *Vitrina* (including *Helicarion*) in the following order:—

*V. cingulata*, sp. nov. Algoa Bay.

*V. natalensis* (Krauss). Natal.

*V. zonamydra*, sp. nov. Algoa Bay.

*V. Pæppigii* (Menke). Natal.

*V. transvaalensis* (Craven). Transvaal.

*V. Vandenbrockii* (Craven). Transvaal.



*V. cornea* (Pfr.). Natal.

*V. pellicula* (Fér.). Cape District.

*V. Huttoniæ* (Bens.) [*Helix Huttoniæ*]. Port Elizabeth.

*α. rufofilosa*. Port Elizabeth.

*β. meridionalis*. Port Elizabeth.

*γ. aloicola*. Port Elizabeth.

*V. Planti* (Pfr.). Natal.

*Helix (Pella) Crawfordi*, sp. nov.

*H. testa* anguste umbilicata, globoso-depressa, hyalina, supra nitente, subtus olivaceo-sericea, utrinque omnino lævi; spira vix elata, apice obtuso; anfractibus quinque, convexiusculis; apertura lunari, labro simplici, acuto, margine columellari suberecto, supra late reflexo, laminam triangularem (sicut in *H. bisculpta*) formante. Long. 11, lat. 16 mill.

*Hab.* Port Elizabeth.

A very distinct large smooth-whorled snail, not easily to be compared with any other Cape species. We have great pleasure in uniting with this the name of its discoverer, J. Crawford, Esq., to whose indefatigable researches we are indebted for the whole of the material in this paper.

*Helix (Trochonanina) pretoriensis*, sp. nov.

*H. testa* imperforata, conico-trochiformi, olivaceo-fusca; spira elevata, conica, obtusa; anfractibus sex, transversim tenuiliratis, convexiusculis, ultimo carinato; apertura quadrangulari, labro simplici, margine columellari subreflexo. Long. 3, lat. 2.75 mill.

*Hab.* Pretoria, Transvaal.

Entirely unlike any South-African species with which we are acquainted. A very interesting though minute trochiform species.

LVI.—On *Ebalia nux*, *Milne-Edwards*: a Reply to the  
Rev. Canon Norman. By R. I. POCKOCK.

IN the reply with which Canon Norman has favoured me in the October number of this Magazine sundry charges are brought forward of a nature more or less detrimental to my character, and consequently demanding a rejoinder on my part.



Melvill, James Cosmo and Ponsonby, John Henry. 1890. "LV.—Descriptions of four new species of terrestrial mollusca from South Africa, with observations on *Helix Huttoniæ* (Bens.)." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 6, 466–469.

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