

very extensive collection of the freshwater shells of India—the first, I believe, that was sent to this country.

It is figured by Mr. W. Wood, however, in the Supplement to the Catalogue of Shells as *Turbo Francesi*, from specimens sent home by Mrs. Ince: so the confusion began early. Mr. Wood (unfortunately for science, as it added some confusion to the nomenclature) submitted the proofs of the text of the Supplement to Dr. Goodall, who, I suppose, not knowing that the names which I had supplied to Mr. Wood had already been published (though it is mentioned in the preface that they are the names used in the British Museum collection), altered some of the names capriciously. I suppose that the Provost of Eton College did not think it right that a shell should be named after a woman; for in the same way he altered *Nerita Smithiæ* and *Turbo Maugeræ* to *Nerita Smithii* and *Turbo Maugeri*. No one who knew him can believe that it arose from want of politeness or gallantry; but conchologists are more liberal now. I may observe that all the shells figured from specimens in the Supplement were engraved (not etched) on the copper at once, from the shells selected by myself either from the British Museum, Mrs. Mawe's, or Mrs. Gray's collection; and I furnished him with the names of the species (which in some cases were so oddly changed) and also with the Lamarckian Index to the Catalogue and Supplement.

On the Species of the Genera Latiaxis, Faunus, and Melanatria.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

The examination of the original specimens on which the various species of the genus have been described and figured has convinced me that there are not more than two distinct species of *Latiaxis*. The first, *L. Mairæ*, is nearly smooth, with a flat depressed spire and a very large umbilicus: *L. purpurata*, Chenu (Mollusques Mar.), appears to be only a variety of this species, which is sometimes of a purplish colour. The second, *L. pagoda*, Johnson, has a conical spire and a small umbilicus. *L. pagoda*, Johnson, *L. textilis*, A. & H. Adams, *L. Eugeniæ*, Beraud, and *L. nodosa*, A. Adams, are all varieties of the same species, varying in the presence or absence of a keel on the last whorl, and in the whorls being slightly nodose. They are all inhabitants of the China Seas.

The specimens of the genus *Faunus*, Montfort, in Mr. Cuming's cabinet show most conclusively that the shells named *Faunus ater*, *F. terebralis*, Lamk., *F. Cantori*, Benson, and *F. pagoda*, Reeves, are only slight varieties of a single species. *F. Cantori* is a dwarf decollated state, and *F. pagoda* is described and figured from an accidentally distorted adult shell. They are found in Ceylon, Penang, the Philippines, and New Caledonia.

The species of *Melanatria*, Bowdich, have been also needlessly divided. There can be no doubt that *M. fluminea* and *M. plicata*, Reeve, are only varieties of *M. spinosa*, Lamk. It is found in Madagascar and West Africa. They vary not only in the strength

of the plaits and spines (some are even quite smooth), but also in the depth of the notch of the hinder part of the outer lip.

The named species of *Latiaxis*, *Faunus*, and *Melanatria* are not even local varieties. A series of specimens from the same locality show the variations in the surface on which these *dealers'* species are professed to be distinguished, which should be treated as the names given to flowers by nurserymen and florists are by the botanist, as they are scarcely worthy the attention of the scientific conchologist. The effect of this useless multiplication of names has been to almost entirely prevent conchology being studied as a science.

Descriptions of new Fishes. By F. STEINDACHNER.

1. *Plecostomus Wertheimeri*.—Marginal scutes of the sides of the head closely beset with long bristle-like spines; a row of broad transverse plates on each side of the belly between the pectoral and ventral; head adorned with black spots, body with yellow spots. From the river Mucuri in Brazil.

2. *Cottus Brandtii*.—Head parabolic; skin of body scaleless; præoperculum with three spines, of which the uppermost is the longest; mouth-cleft oval, longer than broad; vomer with teeth; upper surface of head closely set with round warts. D. 9/13; A. 11; V. 3; P. 17. From the mouth of the Amur.

3. *Amblyopus Sieboldi*.—Length of head contained 9 times in the total length, or $7\frac{1}{2}$ times in the length of the body; greatest depth $\frac{1}{16}$ of the total length; caudal pointed, long, $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total length. D. 6/48–49; A. 44; C. 17. Mouth of the Amur.

4. *Pseudorhombus adpersus*.—Length of head contained $3\frac{5}{6}$ times, depth of body $2\frac{2}{3}$ in the total length; diameter of eye $\frac{1}{6}$ of the length of the head; numerous black points, spots, and rings on the whole body. D. 72; A. 58; P. 12; V. 5; L. lat. 104. From the Chinchas Islands.

5. *Scopelus spinosus*.—Scales of body toothed; a long spine on the lower extremity of each scale of the last longitudinal series but one above the anal, which is longer than the dorsal; diameter of the eye $\frac{1}{2}$ the length of the head. D. 14; A. 20; V. 9; L. lat. 40;

L. transv. $\frac{3\frac{1}{2}}{1}$. From China.
 $5\frac{1}{2}(4\frac{1}{2})$

6. Genus *Tæniolabrus*.—Body rather compressed, much elongated, of very small depth, covered with cycloid scales; head scaleless; ventral fins articulated a little before the pectorals*; teeth in intermaxillaries and lower jaw uniserial, pointed, the foremost the longest; vomer and palatal bone with teeth; dorsal and anal fins very long; lateral line not interrupted.

7. *Tæniolabrus filamentosus*.—Head pointed, $\frac{1}{6}$ of the total length; lower jaw protruding; eyes approximated; depth of body $\frac{1}{17}$ of the

* In the original the author contrasts "Bauchflossen" with "Ventralen," which are identical; the above is probably his meaning.



Gray, John Edward. 1867. "On the species of the genera Latiaxis, Faunus, and Melanatria." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 20, 78–79.

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