

Mr. Wetherell has also obtained, during the excavation of the London clay at the Highgate tunnel for the Edgware and Highgate railway, a fine specimen of the *Belosepion* (*B. sepioidea*, De Blainv.) similar to that figured by Mr. F. E. Edwards in his valuable monograph on the Eocene Mollusca (Palæont. Soc. 1849, Tab. I., fig. 1, *h*) and found in the London clay of the Isle of Sheppey, and which now forms part of the Dixon collection in the British Museum. Mr. Wetherell's specimen is somewhat elliptical in form, convex, and measures about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, by 2 inches in breadth, and 1 inch in depth; it is strongly and broadly ribbed, the outer shell preserved in some places, is of moderate thickness, nearly smooth, and faintly marked by lines of growth, which are crossed by finer lines or striae, giving the shell a somewhat decussated appearance when carefully examined.

VI.—NOTE ON *AXINOPSIS* GEN. NOV. v. *SCHIZODUS* ET *AXINUS*.

By RALPH TATE, F.G.S.

PROFESSOR KING instituted the genus *Schizodus* for the reception of certain species of bivalves occurring in the Permian and Carboniferous systems, which had previously been quoted under the generic title of *Axinus*. In Dr. Woodward's Manual of Mollusca, 2nd edit. p. 431, *Axinus* is retained for these shells; and *Schizodus* is reduced to a synonym, because the name applied by Professor King had previously been employed by Mr. Waterhouse.

The type of Sowerby's genus *Axinus* is *A. angulatus*, and with it are associated other Tertiary species and several existing forms. Now, *Axinus*, as so typified and illustrated by Mr. Gwyn Jeffreys, belongs to the family *Lucinidae*, whilst the older shells belong to *Trigonidae*; these latter can no longer be referred to *Axinus*. And to avoid the dual employment of this generic name I would propose that of *Axinopsis* for the species hitherto quoted under *Schizodus*, and incorrectly under *Axinus*.

A very common shell familiarly known as *Schizodus* vel *Axinus cloacinus* was first described by Bornemann as *Teniodon Ewaldi*. This generic name was adopted from Dunker, who, in 1849, described and figured a Liassic shell *Teniodon ellipticus* as the type and unique example of a new genus. But *Teniodon*, as thus proposed is simply equivalent to *Pleuromya*, and cannot consistently be adopted for the group of shells under consideration.

I do not intend to submit a monograph on the genus, my object is simply to avoid an inconvenience which is certainly experienced in the preparation of lists of fossils; but I may state that *Axinopsis* ranges from the Carboniferous series to the true Lower Lias, is widely distributed throughout Europe, and is known in the Carboniferous and Permian strata in North America.

The synonyms of the genus *Axinopsis* (Tate) would be as follows:

Schizodus, King (non Waterhouse).

Axinus, Auctores (non Sowerby, 1821).