

MOLLUSCA OF KING ISLAND.

By W. L. MAY.

WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF FIVE NEW SPECIES.

Plate VII.

(Read 9th July, 1923.)

During the month of November, 1922, I spent some days on King Island visiting relatives, and took what opportunity offered to investigate the Mollusca. No really comprehensive list of the Island's shell fauna appears to have been published. In one of the early French expeditions in 1802 the Naturalists Péron and Lesueur made considerable collections, their take being worked up principally by Lamarek and Blainville. Some of the species described by Tenison-Woods in the seventies of last century were from the Island, and they and others appeared in his Census which was compiled in 1877. Some of these, however, have not been re-taken and require confirmation. The late Professor Tate had a small parcel of King Island shells sent him by some correspondent, and they were recorded by Tate and May in their Revised Census, 1901. There also appeared in the Victorian nature publication, "The Wombat," Vol. V., page 35, 1902, a fairly long list containing 135 species.

I collected at Currie Harbour, Surprise Bay, Fraser, and near "Grassy." The first two on the West Coast, and the others on the East.

The most remarkable feature was the absence of many common Tasmanian shells, particularly the larger bivalves. I saw no sign of our common edible mussel, *M. planulatus*, no *Dosinia* or *Mactra*, scarcely any *Pectens*, neither *Tellina*, *Gari*, nor *Cardium* appeared, and the *Veneridia* were only represented by *Antigona lagopus* and *Gomphina undulosa*. I saw no Trigonias, but was assured that they have been taken near Fraser. The Chitons are moderately represented, *Heterozona subviridis* being extremely abundant, but *Sypharochiton pellis-serpentis*, so common all round the Tasmanian coast, was not seen. The West Coast is very rough and wild, and quite exposed to the prevalent westerly gales; here the rock fauna were Limpets, *Monodonta*, *Bembicium*,

and a few Chitons, with a goodly number of minute forms, found in shell sand, such as generally live under and amongst stones and rocks. A much more sheltered spot is Fraser on Sea Elephant Bay, Middle East Coast, and here washed up on the beach were most of the larger species taken. A longer residence at this spot would doubtless add considerably to the list. Two species of land shells were taken, and the larger one *Chloritis victoria*, is very interesting, as its appearance seems to suggest the necessity of land communication with Victoria at some period, as this species occurs in that State, but not in Tasmania. The great majority of the marine species are also common to Tasmania, although a few Victorian species appear which have not yet crossed to Tasmania. An extremely small percentage appear peculiar to the Island; one of them is *Cantharus kingicola*, Tate and May, and there are four minute species which appear to be new to science, and which I take this opportunity to describe. In the following list there are some species not taken by myself; those of them which appear in the "Wombat" list are marked by an *, and those from Tenison-Woods' descriptions and Census by a †. Altogether I here catalogue 227 species.

Philobrya subpurpurea, Sp. nov.

Shell minute, ovately pyriform, hinge line straightish. Proto-conch small and inconspicuous, consisting of a minute boss on a small flattened area. Colour yellowish, purplish brown at the umbos, extending downwards over part of the shell. Dead shells are white, with a purple stain branching from the umbo on each side of the centre of the valve. The exterior is smooth except for rather prominent growth lines. The hinge consists of a series of vertical ridges and grooves on a flattened plate, and below this are about six ridges or liræ which slightly crenulate the margin on what I take to be the posterior side.

Dimensions of Type.—Height, 2; breadth, 1.7 mill., but some specimens are rather larger. Pl. VII., fig. 1.

Type from Fraser, King Island, taken by Mr Basset-Hull. I also collected numerous single valves in shell sand at Currie Harbour.

Mytilus polita, Sp. nov.

Shell minute, smooth, glossy, shining, and semi-transparent, very inequilateral, much produced on the anterior side, umbo small. Internally there is a strong flattened



1



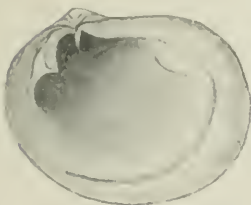
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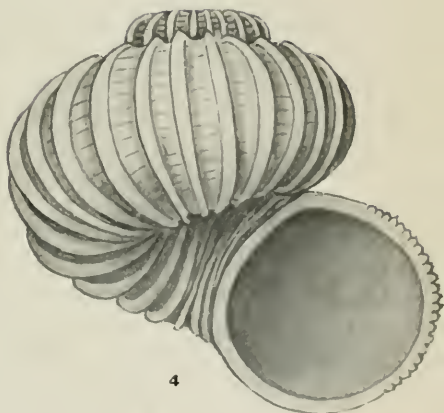
3a



2



2a



4



5



5a



5b

1. *Philobrya subpurpurca*.
2, 2a. *Mylitta polita*.
3, 3a. *Natica kingensis*.

4. *Brookula consobrina*.
5, 5a, 5b. *Argalista kingicola*.

posterior tooth, and a minute prong-like tooth immediately beneath the umbo.

Height, 2; width, 2.4 mill. Pl. VII., figs. 2, 2a.

Hab.—Surprise Bay, King Island, in shell sand, six single valves.

In size, and to some extent outline, this resembles *M. gemmata*, Tate, from South Australia, but that species is ornamented with divaricating sculpture, and is still more inequilateral. Shells of this genus are usually strongly sculptured; the present species is therefore remarkable for its perfect smoothness.

Natica kingensis, Sp. nov.

Shell very small, ovately turbinate with a small spire, perforate. Colour light yellowish chestnut, a darker band immediately below the suture, and a broader light band below that; there is a patch of deeper colour behind the umbilicus, which is rather small, narrow, and deep. Whorls four, rapidly increasing, the body whorl large. Aperture semi-lunar, sharply pointed above.

Height, 2.5; diameter, 2 mill. Pl. VII., figs 3, 3a.

Hab.—Plentiful in shell sand at Currie Harbour, King Island, where about 200 specimens were collected, which are of very uniform size.

I place this little shell in *Natica*, as its general characteristics seem to point to that genus, but this may not be its final location.

Argalista kingensis, Sp. nov.

Shell small turbinate, solid, dull white, with faint brown rays, perforate. Whorls four, rapidly increasing; spire not much elevated. The upper surface is faintly spirally lirate; under surface smooth. Aperture roundly pyriform, the columella lip somewhat expanded, behind which is an ample umbilicus.

Major diameter, 2.5; height, 1.8 mill. Pl. VII., figs. 5, 5a, 5b.

Hab.—Type with three others from Surprise Bay, King Island, in shell sand. All the specimens are rather beach worn.

This is close to *A. fluctuata*, Hutton, from New Zealand, which differs principally in its smaller umbilicus and

stronger sculpture, which persists on the base. Better preserved examples may prove the King Island shell to be a variant of the New Zealand species.

Brookula consobrina, Sp. nov.

Shell minute, globosely turbinate, perforate, solid, dirty-white, rather corroded. Whorls four, first one and a half unsculptured and scarcely raised above the succeeding whorls, which are crossed by strong axial ribs widely separated and laminate, about 30 on the first turn of the body whorl, the interstices crossed with fine regular liræ which are scarcely discernible on most specimens. Aperture almost round continuous, outer edge finely notched by the revolving liræ. Umbilicus medium sized and deep.

Diameter, 1.5; height, 1.3; Pl. VII., fig. 4.

Type with 18 others from 40 fathoms off Thovin Bay, Tasmania.

This species is a very typical *Brookula*, and scarcely differs from the type of the genus *B. stibarochila*, Iredale, from the Kermadecs. Pro. Mal. Soc. X., pt. iii., 1912. p. 220. Our shell appears rather higher and has a smaller mouth. It is also very close to *B. densilaminatam*, Verco, which shell has a more elevated pullus, and ribs about twice as numerous. Intermediate forms may yet be found.

LIST OF KING ISLAND MOLLUSCA.

- Pronucula micans*, Angas.
Lissarca rhomboidalis, Verco.
Arca metella, Hedley.
Glycymeris flabellatus, Ten.-Woods.
 **Philobrya fimbriata*, Tate.
Philobrya subpurpurea, May
Notomytilus ruber, Hedley.
Ostrea Spe?
Neotrigonia margaritacea, Lanik.
Pecten medius, Lanik.
Chlamys asperimus, Lanik.
Lima strangei, Sowerby.
Brachydontis rostratus, Dunker.
Modiolus australis, Gray.
Myochama anomiaides, Stutchbury.
Venericardia amabilis, Deshayes.
Venericardia exulata, Smith.

- **Cardita calyculata*, L.
Condylocardiu crussicosta, Bernard.
 †*Codakia bella*, Conrad.
 **Codakia lacteola*, Tate.
 **Codakia minima*, Ten.-Woods.
 **Lucinida assimilis*, Angas.
 **Diplodonta zelandica*, Gray.
 **Neolepton rostellata*, Tate.
Rocheportia douaciformis, Angas.
Lasaea australis, Lamk.
Lasaea miliaris, Phil.
 **Mylitta auriculata*, Smith.
 **Mylitta deshayesi*, D'Orb.
Mylitta polita, May.
 **Mylitta tasmanica*, Ten.-Woods.
Macrocallista diemenensis, Hanley.
Antigona lagopus, Lamarck.
Gomphina undulosa, Lamk.
Venerupis exotica, Lamk.
Solen vaginoides, Lamk.
 **Spirula spirula*, L.
Sepia apama, Gray.
Sepia cultrata, Hoyle.
Ischnochiton atkinsoni, Iredale and May.
Isch. iredalei, Dupuis Var.
Isch. lincoletus, Blainville.
Isch. smaragdinus, Angas.
Isch. eravidus, Sowerby.
Isch. subviridus, Iredale and May.
Isch. virgatus, Reeve.
Callistochiton meridionalis, Ashby.
Plaxiphora albida, Blainville.
Plaxiphora tusmanica, Thiele.
Acantho. costatus, Ad. and Ang.
Acantho. sueurii, Blainville.
Acantho. variabilis, Ad. and Ang.
Acantho. kimberi, Torr.
Cryptoplax striatus, Lamk.
Scissurella rosea, Hedley.
Schismope atkinsoni, Ten.-Woods.
Schismope beddomei, Petterd.
Scutus antipodes, Montfort.
Hemitoma aspera, Gould.
 **Emarginula bajula*, Hedley.
 **Emarginula candida*, Adams.
 **Lucapinella nigrita*, Sowerby.

- Puncturella harrissoni*, Beddome.
Haliotis albicans, Quoy and Gaim.
Haliotis emma, Reeve.
Haliotis navosum, Martyn.
Stomatella imbricata, Lamk.
Gena strigosa, Adams.
Clanculus flagellatus, Phil.
Clanculus limbatus, Quoy and Gaim.
Clanculus mageri, Wood.
Clanculus plebejus, Phil.
Clanculus yatesi, Crosse, var. *Aloysii*, Ten.-Woods.
Cantharidus eximius, Perry.
**Cantharidus irisodontes*, Quoy and Gaim.
Monodonta adalaidæ, Phil.
Monodonta concamerata, Wood.
Monodonta constricta, Lamk.
Monodonta odontis, Wood.
Cantharidella tiberiana, Crosse.
Calliotrochus legrandi, Petterd.
Fossarina petterdi, Crosse.
**Calliostoma hedleyi*, Prit. and Gat.
Calliostoma mageri, Phil.
Euchellus baccatus, Meuke.
Euchellus scabriusculus, Ad. and Ang.
Phasianella australis, Gmelin.
Phasianella perdis, Wood.
Phasianella rosea, Angas.
Turbo gruneri, Phil.
Turbo undulatus, Martyn.
Astræa aurea, Jonas.
Astræa fimbriata, Lamk.
Cirsouella weldii, Ten.-Woods.
Zalapais inscripta, Tate.
Microdiscula charopa, Tate.
Lodderia minima, Ten.-Woods.
Liotina subquadrata, Ten.-Woods.
Argalista kingensis, May.
Nerita melanotragus, Smith.
Patelloida alticostata, Angas.
**Patelloida conoidea*, Quoy and Gaim.
Patelloidea irradiata, Reeve.
Patelloidea marmorata, Ten.-Woods.
Patelloidea scabrilivata, Angas.
Patella ustulata, Reeve.
Cellana limbata, Phil.
Melachaphe pratermissa, May.

- Melarhappe unifasciata*, Gray.
Bembicium melanostoma, Gmelin.
Risellopsis mutabilis, May.
Haurakia strangei, Brazier.
Haurakia supracostata, May.
Lironoba tenisoni, Tate.
Lironoba unilirata, Ten.-Woods.
Merelina cheilostoma, Ten.-Woods.
Merelina hulliana, Tate.
Dardamla melanochroma, Tate.
Estea approxima, Petterd.
Estea incidata, Frauenfeld.
Anabathron contabulatum, Frauenfeld.
Rissoina fasciata, Adams.
† *Rissoina gertrudis*, Ten.-Woods.
Rissolina angasi, Pease.
* *Diala semistriata*.
Diala lauta, Adams.
Potamopyrgus nigra, Quoy and Gaim.
† *Acmea scalarina*, Cox.
Hipponix conicus, Schumacher.
Hipponix foliacea, Quoy and Gaim.
Plesiotrochus monachus, Crosse and Fischer.
* *Atarocerithium scrotinum*, Adams.
Pyrazus demenensis, Quoy and Gaim.
* *Bittium granarium*, Kiener.
Cerithiopsis turbonilloides, Ten.-Woods.
Seila albosutura, Ten.-Woods.
Triphora tasmanica, Ten.-Woods.
* *Epitonium aculeatum*, Sowerby.
Epitonium australe, Lamarck.
* *Epitonium granosum*, Quoy and Gaim.
Epitonium jukesianum, Forbes.
Cymatium speugleri, Perry.
Eugyrina subdistorta, Lamarck.
Personella eburnea, Reeve.
Personella verrucosa, Reeve.
* *Phalium semigranosum*, Lamarck.
Natica kingensis, May.
Sinum umbilicatum, Quoy and Gaim.
Cypræa angustata, Gmelin.
Trivia australis, Lamarck.
Scaphella undulata, Lamarck.
Ancilla marginata, Lamarck.
* *Ancilla petterdi*, Crosse.
Marginella albida, Tate.

- Marginella angasi*, Crosse.
Marginella formicula, Lamarck.
Marginella subbulbosa, Tate.
**Marginella oculum*, Sowerby.
†*Cancellaria purpuriformis*, Kuster.
Cancellaria spirata, Lamarck.
**Cancellaria undulata*, Sowerby.
Terebra albida, Gray.
Duplicaria rustulata, Deshayes.
Conus anemone, Lamarck.
**Conus rutilus*, Meuke.
Apaturris alba, Petterd.
**Guraleus mitralis*, Adams and Angas.
Guraleus pictus, Adams and Angas.
Austrodrillia braudiana, Crosse.
†*Inquisitor immaculata*, Ten.-Woods.
**Eucitharu compta*, Adams and Angas.
**Etrema bicolor*, Angas.
Nepotilla tasmanica, Ten.-Woods.
Asperdaphne deuseplicata, Dunker.
Fasciolaria australasia, Perry.
Latirofusus spiceri, Ten.-Woods.
†*Verconella dunkeri*, Jonas.
Verconella pyrulata, Reeve.
**Verconella tasmaniensis*, Adams and Angas.
Mitra australis, Swainson.
**Mitra analogica*, Reeve.
Mitra glabra, Swainson.
†*Mitra legrandi*, Ten.-Woods.
Mitra pica, Reeve.
**Mitra tasmanica*, Ten.-Woods.
Cominella burnea, Reeve.
Cominella kingicola, Tate and May.
Cominella lincolata, Lamarck.
Euthria clarkci, Ten.-Woods.
**Fusus bednalli*, Brazier.
Fusus mestayeræ, Iredale.
Nassarius pauperus, Gould.
**Pyrene acuminata*, Meuke.
**Pyrene leucostoma*, Gaskoin.
Pyrene pulla, Gaskoin.
Pyrene semiconveza, Lamarck.
Zafra fulgida, Reeve.
Zafra legrandi, Ten.-Woods.
**Murex angasi*, Crosse.
Murex triformis, Reeve.

- **Murex umbilicatus*, Ten.-Woods.
- Trophon goldsteini*, Ten.-Woods.
- **Trophon petterdi*, Crosse.
- Thais baileyana*, Ten.-Woods.
- Thais succincta*, Martyn.
- **Lepsiella adalaidæ*, Adams and Angas.
- Lepsiella reticulata*, Blainville.
- Lepsiella vinosa*, Lamarck.
- Marinula parva*, Swainson.
- Marinula xanthostoma*, Adams.
- Lecuconopsis pellucidus*, Cooper.
- Siphonaria diemenensis*, Quoy and Gaim.
- Succinea australis*, Ferrusoac.
- Chloritis victoriæ*, Cox.
- Rhytida ruga*, Cox.
- **Odostomia metcalfei*, Prit. and Gat.
- Odostomia portseaensis*, Gat. and Gab.
- **Turbonilla hofmani*, Angas.
- Turbonilla mariæ*, Ten.-Woods.
- Eulima augur*, Angas.
- Eulima tenisoni*, Tryon.
- Melanella petterdi*, Beddome.
- Pseudorissoina tasmanica*, Ten.-Woods.
- Retusa apicina*, Gould.
- Haminæa tenera*, Adams.
- Philine angasi*, Crosse and Fischer.