

a similar phenomenon will, I imagine, be eventually proved to occur amongst fishes.

The cavity in the head cannot affect this æstivation, because it is not only the hollow-headed Acanthopterygians which thus reappear after rain, but also Cyprinidæ and others, which, if this cavity were necessary for this purpose, must die when the water dried up, and would thus soon become extinct in many places. As I have every reason to hope that some of the specimens of Ophiocephalidæ which I had the pleasure of despatching to Europe by the mail of March may arrive safely, I append a few observations respecting their habits. I have kept some of these fish for some time in aquaria at Madras. When first in confinement they were very wild and frightened; but they gradually became very tame, and fed from the hand without fear. The aquarium in which they are kept should always have plenty of clean sand at the bottom, and no rockwork, as they are apt to thrust against it violently with their noses; and in several instances their jaws were thus denuded of skin and their heads of scales, producing great irritation, which caused the cessation of the secretion of healthy mucus, and frequently resulted in death. They require very little water, and may be seen lying on the sand, occasionally lazily raising their heads, if the water is shallow, and taking in air. They are fond of grass and aquatic plants in the aquarium, and the small specimens then lie amongst them on the surface of the water, thus saving themselves the trouble of rising from the sand for air. But as they are continually biting at the grass, the water becomes very dirty; and it was therefore discontinued, and the fish did quite as well without it. If the water is dirty they scarcely appear to move their gills, but about every two or three minutes ascend to the top, emit their bubble, and descend. Their habits are dirty; and the water is constantly vitiated by the large amount of mucus they exude from their bodies, as well as by the rejection of their food in small shreds after it has been swallowed. Fresh water should be given them every day, as otherwise it becomes foul and offensive. When it is changed they become wildly excited and rush about, probably in the same manner as when aroused suddenly from their "summer sleep."

6. Descriptions of some new Species of Shells collected by Geoffrey Nevill, Esq., at Mauritius, the Isle of Bourbon, and the Seychelles. By HENRY ADAMS, F.L.S.

(Plate XXVIII.)

CONUS (CHELYCONUS) BORBONICUS, H. Ad. (Pl. XXVIII. fig 1.)

*C. testa convexo-conica, angusta, lævigata, solidiuscula, antice spirally lirata, roseo-lutea, fascia albida obscura in medio cincta,*

*et liris multis rubris interruptis ornata; spira elevata, concava, apice mamillato; anfr. 6, supera angulatis et nodulosis; apertura angusta, antice paulum dilatata; labro postice recedente.*

Long. 12, diam. 5 mill.

*Hab.* Isle of Bourbon.

Fam. RISSOIDÆ.

Gen. NEVILLIA, H. Ad.

*Testa imperforata, acuto-ovata; anfractibus convexis, spiraliter liratis, longitudinaliter striatis. Apertura ovalis; columella callosa et dente introrsum desinente munita; labro acuto, intus levigato, extus varicoso.*

This genus has much the resemblance of a minute species of *Craspedotus*; but there is no indication of nacre within the aperture, and the tooth on the columella is more like that of *Rissoa monodonta* than of the former genus; in its form and sculpture *Nevillia* approaches *Alvania*. I have dedicated it to Mr. Geoffrey Nevill.

NEVILLIA PICTA, H. Ad. (Pl. XXVIII. fig. 2.)

*N. testa ovato-conica, solidula, costis spiralibus inæqualibus (in medio anfractuum una validiore) et striis minutissimis longitudinalibus sculpta; albida, maculis fulvis picta; spira conica, apice acuto, sutura distincta; anfr. 5½, angulatis; apertura ovali; dente columellari prominente; labro extus varicoso.*

Long. 2¼, diam. 1½ mill.

*Hab.* Mauritius.

NEVILLIA LUCIDA, H. Ad. (Pl. XXVIII. fig. 3.)

*N. testa ovato-conica, solidiuscula, subpellucida, alba, costis spiralibus subdistantibus et striis minutissimis longitudinalibus sculpta; spira conica, apice acuto, sutura impressa; anfr. 5, convexis; apertura subcirculari; dente columellari valido, acuto; labro varice externo valido.*

Long. 2, diam. 1½ mill.

*Hab.* Isle of Bourbon.

STYLIFER SPECIOSUS, H. Ad. (Pl. XXVIII. fig. 4.)

*S. testa imperforata, ovato-subulata, tenui, subpellucida, nitida, lactea, liris capillaceis distantibus cincta; spira sursum valde attenuata, sutura distincta; anfr. 11, apicalibus 6 stylinis, deinde conteris, ultimo rotundato; apertura sublunari; columella recta, callosa; labro valde sinuato.*

Long. 60, diam. 4 mill.

*Hab.* Mauritius.

NANINA (MACROCHLAMYS) GEOFFREYI, H. Ad. (Pl. XXVIII. fig. 5.)

*N. testa minute perforata, depressa, tenui, vix nitente, sub lente minutissime spiraliter striatula, longitudinaliter obsolete irregu-*

