

crebris; elytris ovatis, thorace paulo latioribus, tuberculis minutis crebris obsitis. Long. corp.  $2\frac{3}{4}$ — $3\frac{1}{4}$  lin.

This species is a trifle less than the last, from which it may be distinguished by the very minute size of the scales with which it is covered, or as it were powdered, for they do not completely cover the body; the minute tubercles on the thorax and elytra are free from scales; the abdomen beneath is rather sparingly furnished with whitish hairs. The legs are shorter, and the femora are less clavate than in *Ap. adpersus*.

XXXVII.—*Descriptions of new Shells from the Collection of Captain Sir Edward Belcher, R.N., C.B.* By RICHARD BRINSLEY HINDS, Esq., Surgeon R.N.

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*Mitra Belcheri.* Testa fusiformi, turrata, elongata, solida; anfractibus lævigatis, transversim inæqualiter sulcatis vel exaratis, divisionibus duabus superioribus majoribus; epidermide nigro indutased infra lactea; columella quadriplicata; labio externo tenui. Axis 48 lin.

*Geog.* Gulfs of Nicoya and Papagayo, Central America; dredged from a muddy floor in 17 fathoms.

This fine shell approaches in size the largest species of the genus, and is surpassed by none in symmetry and outline. In shape it is fusiform and turreted, the spire rather produced, and the last whorl not occupying more than half the entire length. The shell itself is milky white, but is everywhere covered by a smooth black epidermis. The whorls are ploughed with deep channels or sulci at unequal distances, of which the two superior divisions have the greatest breadth, but the inferior of the two is the broadest; and they overlap each other more than is usual in the genus. The columella is furnished with four plaits, the upper being somewhat distant, and the lower not very distinct. The outer lip is thin and uneven, by reason of the sulci which terminate on its margin; the inner is slightly developed.

The shell is named after the Commander of the expedition, and, handsome as it is, commemorates but feebly his devotion to conchology. Two specimens, an adult and a young shell, are in the collection; a third is in my own collection, and I know of the existence of no others.

*Ranella Californica.* Testa ovata, ventricosa, fusca; anfractibus uniseriatim tuberculatis, transversim granoso-striatis, tuberculis conicis subdistantibus; varicibus magnis cavernosis; anfractu ultimo multiseriatim obsolete tuberculato, fasciis duabus angustis pur-

pureis indistinctis cincto; apertura alba; labio externo crenato et dentato, interno transversim striato. Axis 52 lin.

*Geog.* San Diego, California.

There is some chance that this shell may be confounded with *R. ventricosa*, as the more prominent features of both have only a comparative value. This, however, is a much larger shell, is without any disposition to tuberculation near the suture, the varices are much bolder and cavernous, the tubercles on the spire fewer and larger, and the pillar lip is set with many small transverse ridges.

1. *Conus marchionatus*. Testa oblonga, turbinata, alba, fusco angulate reticulata; spira depressa, ecoronata, mucronata, spiraliter striata; anfractibus sulcatis; apertura inferne paululum effusa, ad basin striata; epidermide diaphano lævi induta. Axis 16 lin.  
*Geog.* Port Anna Maria, Nuhuhiva, Marquesas; dredged from a sandy floor in 7 to 10 fathoms.

A difference of opinion seems to exist as to what is the base colour of this and similar species. My own opinions were open to proof, till a specimen with a repaired fracture appears to me to decide it. After repairing the injury, the animal for a time has discontinued the reticulation, and a portion of a pure white has been produced. After awhile the meshes are again continued. A variety of this shell occurs in which the reticulation is of a pale yellow colour.

2. *C. patricius*. Testa pyriformi, tumida; spira acuminata, minute tuberculata vel coronata; anfractu ultimo striato, superne plicifero, inferne valde contractato; apertura lineari; labio externo tenui, acuto; epidermide fulvo lævi induta. Axis 13 lin.  
*Geog.* Gulf of Nicoya, Central America; dredged from sandy mud in 7 fathoms.

Shell much contracted in the lower portion of the last whorl, somewhat tumid below the shoulder; spire moderately produced, minutely coronated, at the angle of the last whorl thrown into small folds; aperture narrow and linear; the outer lip very thin. Epidermis of a clear fulvous colour, beneath which the shell is of a uniform fawn-colour.

3. *C. cælebs*. Testa pyriformi, alba; spira retusa, conica, ecoronata; anfractu ultimo lineis elevatis equidistantibus transversim dispositis; apertura lineari, inferne paululum effusa, alba; columellæ basi et spiræ apice violaceo; epidermide olivacea, fragili. Axis 12 lin.  
*Geog.* Ambow, Feejee Islands. A single specimen was captured on the coral reefs.

#### CYRTULUS\*, n. g.

Testa fusiformis; anfractus ultimus et penultimus turbinatus; spira per saltum ascendens; apertura linearis in canali brevi effuso de-

\* κυρτός *incurvus*, στήλος *columna*.

sinens; columella valde arcuata, superne callosa; labium externum acutum; umbilicus parvus. Epidermis lævis.

*C. serotinus.*

*Geog.* Port Anna Maria, Nuhuhiva, Marquesas.

Shell somewhat fusiform, the last two whorls turbate, whence a spire, less than half the length of the body-whorl, suddenly ascends; everywhere smooth, except the spire, which is nodulose and transversely ridged, and covered with the remains of a brown epidermis. The last whorl much lengthened, squarish, flattened, and not at all ventricose; the aperture terminating in a short effuse canal, and towards the centre expanded, from the conformation of the columella. Outer lip thin and sharp; inner not at all produced. Columella with a large callosity above, arcuate in the centre, corresponding to a contraction which occupies the circumference of the last whorl. A smaller callosity below assists to cover the umbilicus. Axis 39 lines.

I am disposed to place this new genus among the *Pyru-lidæ*, in which group it holds an analogous situation to Swainson's genus of fossil shells, *Clavalithes*, among the *Turbinellidæ*. The structure of the spire, formation of the canal, and peculiar convolution of the lower whorls seem to display its affinities here. But as the plaits on the columella are variable in *Clavalithes*, and *Cyrtulus* may still be confounded with it, the points of difference will be found in the short expanded canal, deeply incurved columella, and in the absence of the papillary spire,—a character on which Mr. Swainson dwells, as being indispensable to the existence of his genus.

1. *Phos Veraguensis.* Testa ovata, elongata, costulata; costulis numerosis æqualibus, lineis elevatis decussatis et cancellatis; anfractibus subplanulatis, superne fuscis, inferne albidis; ultimo albo fasciato. Axis 15 lin.

*Geog.* Pueblo Nueva, coast of Veragua; dredged in some numbers from 26 fathoms, mud.

This may be regarded as the American analogue of the Asiatic shell, *Phos senticosus*.

2. *P. crassus.* Testa ovata, elongata, solida, costata; costis rudibus subdistantibus, lineis impressis decussatis; labio externo grandidentato, interno prorumpente producto.

*Geog.* Panama and Gulf of Fonseca; dredged as solitary shells in from 3 to 14 fathoms, mud.

The characters of this shell are all prominent. It is solid, the ribs large and coarse, crossed by prominent lines; teeth on the outer lip large, internal ridges strongly marked; inner lip considerably produced forwards. The colour is a lightish brown, somewhat deeper on the ribs.