

REPRINTS OF RARE ARTICLES ON MOLLUSCA. --H. B. Small and P. B. Symes, 1882, "Report of the Conchological Branch for the Season of 1882." --- Trans. Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, No. 3, pp. 57-59. Reprinted with permission of the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

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#### REPORT OF THE CONCHOLOGICAL BRANCH

For the Season of 1882

To the Council of the Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club:

The undersigned beg leave to report that in this branch of the Club, nine members have been engaged in active work during the season, and that the researches made, (particularly by Mr. Latchford,) have been of a most thorough nature and have resulted in additions to the list of shells already recorded in this locality, and the discovery of some which may prove new to Canada itself; of these, a list is appended in which all are mentioned of which the identity has been proved without doubt. Descriptive notes of twenty-seven species embraced by the family Unionidae will be given by Mr. Latchford, in a paper which he is preparing on that subject to be read before the Club.

H. B. SMALL,  
P. B. SYMES,  
Leaders of the Conchological Branch.

#### APPENDIX

Descriptive notes of shells found in the

vicinity of Ottawa during the summer of 1881, not before recorded on the Club list: --

1. *Amnicola limosa*, Say. This shell is abundant in ponds near St. Louis Dam. In Mr. Heron's collections (presented by him to the Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society,) it is marked "*A. porata*, Say." The true *A. porata* of Say is, however, quite a different shell; but the *A. porata* of Gould is a synonym of *A. limosa*, Say. The true *A. porata* Say is to be found in several lakes in Ottawa County. It is larger and more globose than *A. limosa*, Say, to which it is allied, and has a more distinct umbilicus. Its distribution too is more limited, being confined to the Northern States and Canada.

2. *Amnicola decisa*, Haldeman. Specimens of this shell have been found in Leamy's Lake. It has the labium more appressed than in any of the other species of the genus found in this locality; the form too is more elongated. It was found by Mr. Heron subsequent to the publication of his list.

3. *Limnatiopsis Cincinnatiensis*, Lea. (*Amnicola Sayana*, Anthony.) A few specimens of this species have been found in Dow's Swamp. This is the first record of it having been found in Canada. This shell must not be confounded with *Amnicola Cincinnatensis*, Anthony.

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4. *Limnaea megasoma*, Say. This beautiful and distinct species was first found in Meech's Lake by Mr. Latchford, in September, 1880, and a good series was secured during the past season. This species is the largest of the *Limnaeidae*. In beauty it is surpassed only by such exceptionally fine forms of *L. stagnalis* as occur here in the Rideau Canal. *L. megasoma* is easily distinguished from all other American species by its ovate form, thick shell, and rich chestnut-brown interior. Haldeman has made it the type of his sub-genus *Bulimnaea*. It is a northern species ranging from Vermont to Lake Superior, near which it was first found by Dr. Bigsby. It was once abundant in a pond on Nun's Island, in the St. Lawrence, opposite to Montreal, but of late years it appears to have become almost extinct in that locality.

5. *Limnaea lanceata*, Gould. Three specimens of this species were found by Mr. Fletcher, in Dow's Swamp in September last; previous to this no one but Agassiz appears to have observed it either in Canada or elsewhere. As late as 1865, the date of Binney's monograph on the American *Limnaeidae*, there was only a single specimen in the cabinet of the Smithsonian Institute at Washington. The locality of the shells found by Agassiz, and named by his friend Dr. Gould, was "Pic Lake" to the north of Lake Superior. The shell of *L. lanceata* is very fragile and slender. It not a little resembles *L. (Acella) gracilis*, Say.

6. *Limnaea caperata*, Say, var.

*umbilicata*, Adams. By some authors this shell is regarded as merely a variety of *L. caperata*, Say; Adams, however, with others, claims that it is a distinct species and calls it *L. umbilicata*. According to Binney, who, following Haldeman, favours the former view, "It is found along the northern tier of States to Michigan; has been quoted from Louisiana; catalogued by Adams from Jamaica, and placed by Poey in the synonymy of *L. cubensis*, Pfr." It would appear, therefore, to be a very constant variety, if, indeed, it be not a distinct species. Adams acknowledges that it resembles *L. caperata*, Say, but observes that in Say's species "the aperture is but one-half the length (in *umbilicata* it is three-fifths) the revolving lines are raised, more distinct and numerous, the umbilicus is rather less, and there is one more whorl." In this locality Say's species is abundant, but Adams' is very rare - only three specimens having been obtained so far. They were found in the Rideau River at the Rifle Range by Mr. Latchford. They were sent to Mr. Tryon for examination and returned marked "*L. caperata*, Say, var. *umbilicata*."

7. *Limnaea emarginata*, Say. There once existed considerable doubt with respect to this variable shell and its identity with *L. catascopium*. Specimens in Mr. Heron's collection bear the latter name. It is now, however, very generally regarded as a distinct species. *L. emarginata* is a thicker, larger, and considerably wider shell than *L. catascopium*. It is a common shell near rapid water in the Ottawa and Rideau Rivers; very fine specimens are to be found about a mile above Billings Bridge. The true *L. catascopium* is less frequently found, being noted only from Brigham's Creek, Nepean Bay, and at the Chats Rapids, near Arnprior.

8. *Limnaea lepida*, Gould. One of the most interesting additions to the list is the above named shell which was found in Meech's Lake by Mr. Latchford in September. The

naming of Mr. Latchford's specimen has been checked by Mr. Tryon and found correct. The specimen found differs from Binney's figure only in the slighter convexity of its whorls. Its size is exactly that of the shells described by Dr. Gould, 3/5 inch by 1/4 inch. *L. lepida* has heretofore been found only in Oregon. It is very rare.

9. *Physa gyrina*, Say. This widely distributed species differs from *P. heterostropha* in having a more elongated spire and a less deeply indented suture. It is found plentiful during the spring months, in ponds near the Canada Pacific Railway at Mechanicsville.

10. *Ancylus parallelus*, Haldeman. This fresh water limpet has been found in the Ottawa River and Rideau Canal, adhering to the submerged leaves of water.

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plants and to other shells. Its favourite quarters are the inner sides of the valves of dead *Unio*nes and *Anodonta*e, from which, if disturbed in the least, it is very difficult to detach them without breaking the shell. This species has been observed in New York and the Eastern States, but its range is more restricted than that of *Ancylus rivularis*.

11. *Zonites minusculus*, Binney. A few specimens of this minute *Helix* were found by Mr. Latchford in Eardley, Que., in September, and it has been reported as found near Toronto by Mr. Brodie. It has probably escaped notice in other localities on account of its small size.

12. *Vertigo milium*, Gould. A single specimen of this species was found by Mr. Latchford in Billing's Bush. It is remarkable as being the smallest species of the genus.

13. *Unio luteolus*, Lamarck. (1)

14. " *cariosus*, Say.

15. " *occidens*, Lea.

16. " *gracilis*, Barnes.

17. " *pressus*, Lea.

18. " *Canadensis*, Lea.

19. " *borealis*, A. F. Gray.

20. *Anodonta edentula*, Say.

21. " *subcylindracea*, Lea.

22. " *Benedictii*, Lea.

23. " *Lewisii*, Lea.

24. " *implicata*, Say.

25. " *Footiana*, Lea.

26. " *lacustris*, Lea.

27. " *fragilis*, Lamarck.

28. *Sphaerium truncatum*, Linsley. This species resembles *S. securis*, Prime, and might at first sight be confounded with that shell. It differs, however, in being much less inflated, less inequilateral, and lighter in colour. Its post margin is more nearly a straight line, giving the shell the appearance of having been cut short - *truncatum*. This species is found in the St. Louis Dam pond. Unlike *S. rhomboideum* and *S. sulcatum*, it is very active. Specimens kept in confinement are almost always in motion. With the syphonal tube protruding behind they will extend the foot in front more than half an inch, attach it to the side of the vessel, and then contracting it will pull the shell forward. By this means they move in every direction with ease.

(1) In the original paper, items 13-27 are joined together by a long bracket with the notation "See Mr. Latchford's paper."

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