

DRIFT LAND SHELLS FROM THE RED RIVER, ARKANSAS

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On September 2, 1962 the author collected a large series of drift shells from the Red River, at Fulton, Hempstead County, Arkansas. Ordinarily drift shells from such a large river would be of little value because of the large area from which they might have come. However, it is doubtful if drift shells could get past Lake Texoma and the Denison Dam, which greatly limits their possible source to southeastern Oklahoma, extreme northeastern Texas, and a small area in southwestern Arkansas. The presence of a number of species which had not been previously reported from this area would indicate that further collecting was desirable. Some of the shells appear to have been washed from Pleistocene deposits.

In the following list the number after the name of the species is the number of specimens collected. This is given only where less than fifty specimens were collected. For *Gastrocopta contracta*, the most abundant species, enough specimens were collected to fill a 3 dram vial; and some other species were nearly as numerous.

Polygyra leporina (Gould)
Polygyra texasiana (Moricand)
Polygyra dorfeuilliana Lea 19
Stenotrema leai aliciae (Pilsbry) 17
Mesodon thyroidus (Say) 5

Mesodon clausus (Say) 1
Mesodon inflectus (Say) 10
Triodopsis divesta (Gould) 1
Euconulus chersinus (Say)
Glyphyalinia indentata (Say)
Hawaii minuscula (Binney)
Hawaii minuscula alachuana Dall
Zonitoides arboreus (Say) 27
Striatura meridionalis (Pilsbry & Ferriss) 1
Anguispira strongylodes (Pfeiffer) 4
Helicodiscus parallelus (Say)
Helicodiscus notius Hubricht 28
Helicodiscus eigenmanni Pilsbry 1
Helicodiscus singleyanus (Pilsbry) 33
Helicodiscus intermedius Morrison
Helicodiscus, n. sp.
Helicodiscus, n. sp. 5
Helicodiscus jacksoni Hubricht 42
Helicodiscus nummus (Vanatta) 3
Punctum minutissimum (Lea)
Succinea pseudavara Webb 3
Strobilops texasiana Pilsbry & Ferriss
Strobilops aenea Pilsbry 41
Gastrocopta armifera (Say) (1 sinistral shell)
Gastrocopta contracta (Say)
Gastrocopta holzingeri (Sterki) 3
Gastrocopta pentodon (Say) 31
Gastrocopta tappaniana (C. B. Adams)
Gastrocopta corticaria (Say) 6
Gastrocopta procera (Gould)
Gastrocopta cristata (Pilsbry & Vanatta)

Gastrocopta pellucida hordeacella (Pilsbry) 29	Vertigo, n. sp. 1
Pupoides albilabris (C. B. Adams)	Vertigo, n. sp. 2
Vertigo milium (Gould)	Vertigo tridentata Wolf 2
Vertigo oscariana Sterki 4	Carychium exile H. C. Lea
Vertigo rugosula Sterki	Helicina orbiculata tropica Pfeiffer
Vertigo oralis Sterki 43	Pomatiopsis lapidaria (Say) 22
Vertigo ovata Say	Snail eggs (Zonitoides ?) 2
Vertigo teskeyae Hubricht	

 REVIEW

A REVISION OF THE SPHAERIIDAE OF NORTH AMERICA (MOLLUSCA: PELECYPODA), by H. B. Herrington. -- University of Michigan, Museum of Zoology, Misc. Publ. No. 118, 74 pp., 7 pls., 2 text figs. Ann Arbor, Michigan, April 26, 1962. -- \$ 2.85.

Friends and correspondents of Rev. Mr. H. B. Herrington have long awaited the publication of this revision; they will not be disappointed in it now that it has finally been issued. Here is the most authoritative, thorough, and detailed analysis of the Sphaeriidae to appear in half a century and one which is certain to revolutionize the attitude of malacologists and paleontologists towards this family. This estimate of the work will meet with agreement from anyone who uses it as a guide to the fingernail clams of North America and it is safe to predict that admiration and respect for the author's work will increase with use.

The author has outlined the story of his attraction to this study in a prefatory statement (pp. 5-6). It should be read with the knowledge that Herrington could devote to sphaeriids only the spare moments of a busy life as a minister until his retirement a few years ago. It should be remembered also that his ability and industry were recognized by the scientific fraternity in Canada and the United States and the grants-in-aid which helped him in his work are a tribute to his sound malacological knowledge. Here is support of scientific work at its best and the various institutions responsible should have a share in our gratitude.

Perhaps the main value of this work lies in the reduction of species from the hundreds previously described to a manageable 35 (Sphaerium 12, Pisidium 22) and the recognition of 15 Eurasian species in North America. Identification of species is rendered relatively easy by means of a key and illustrations of the diagnostic characters of each species, amplified in carefully worded descriptions.

A minor criticism may be noted here which in no way affects the general usefulness of the work. The synonymy (pp. 52-54) does not dispose of all the names previously applied to North American sphaeriids. Some of these have been dealt with in previous papers (Brooks and Herrington, 1944, Naut. 57: 93-97 and Herrington, 1954, Naut. 67: 97-104, 131-138) but there is still a residue of unsolved puzzles.

To summarize, Herrington's work will henceforth be an indispensable working reference for North American malacologists and he has earned our gratitude for giving us such a clear and complete account of the family.

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