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XXVII.—Description of a new Genus of Parasitic Mollusca.

By EDGAR A. SMITH.

ABOUT a year ago the British Museum purchased of Mr. Robillard, of the Mauritius, among other specimens, a single example of a shell, which, according to his statement, appears to have been "found living on an *Echinus*." This specimen I have been unable to locate in any known genus of parasitic Mollusca.

The number of genera which may be truly said to be parasitic appears to be very small.

Stilifer lives a parasite upon Echini or in the skin or tegument of starfishes. Some species of *Eulima* are found in Holothurians, the abode also of the curious *Entoconcha*. *Styliferina* occurs on species of Ophiuridæ.

Stimpson has named a parasitic mollusk *Cochliolepis parasiticus* which lives beneath the scales of an Annelid (*Acoëtes lupina*). Many species of *Ovula* are found only upon *Gorgoniæ*; *Capulus crystallinus* infests the rays of starfish; one or two species of *Odostomia* are said to occur on *Pecten*; the little *Pedicularia* lives parasitic upon corals &c.; and the species of *Rhizochilus*, *Coralliophila*, *Cryptobia*, *Leptoconcha*, and *Magilus* are invariably found in or upon corals, but to what extent they may be regarded as truly parasitic has not as yet been determined. The female of *Lamellaria perspicua* is said to deposit its eggs in a compound Ascidian (*Leptoclinum*). A few species of bivalves are known to be parasitic. *Lepton parasiticum*, Dall, lives upon a sea-urchin (*Hemaster cavernosus*). A species of *Montacuta* is "invariably found attached to the spines of *Spatangus purpureus* and other Echinoderms of the same kind." *Modiolaria marmorata* burrows into the test of Ascidians, and the genera *Vulsella* and *Crenatula* live in sponges. *Pedum* and *Tridacna* and some species of *Lithodomus* occur in corals; but these can scarcely be considered parasitic forms. The glochidium-stage of *Anodonta* is truly parasitic, obtaining nourishment from the fish to which it has become attached.

The species under consideration bears only a general resemblance in form to one of those which I have mentioned, namely *Cochliolepis parasiticus**. As its conditions of life are so different, there is little doubt but that it is generically quite distinct, and I therefore propose to describe it as such under the name *Robillardia*. Its systematic position is

* Stimpson, Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist. 1888, vol. vi. p. 308, woodcut.

very doubtful at present, the animal being unknown. A small dried portion of it was attached to the shell, but no odontophore could be discovered in it. Some minute, glassy, grain-like objects adhering to it proved on examination under the microscope to be minute shells and doubtless the young of this species; there is therefore every reason to believe that it is viviparous.

The genus and species may be described thus:—

ROBILLARDIA.

Animal parasiticum, *Echinus incolens*, viviparum. Testa vitrea, depresso heliciformis; spira brevis; apertura lunata, magna; peristoma simplex, tenue.

Robillardia cernica *.



Testa tenuis, pellucida, vitrea, nitens, imperforata, depresso globosa; anfractus 5 celeriter crescentes, lirulis sulcisque levibus spiralibus striisque incrementi arcuatis sculpti, convexi, sutura canaliculata sejuncti; ultimus magnus, ad peripheriam rotundatus, inferne concentricè leviter liratus et scrobiculatus, in regione umbilici plus minus tenuiter callosus; apertura lunata; peristoma tenue, margine inferiore recedente, columellari supra leviter expanso.

Diam. maj. 8 mm., min. 6½; alt. 5.

Hab. Mauritius.

This delicate shell has the glassy texture of *Carinaria* and somewhat the form of certain species of *Hyalinia*.

XXVIII.—*Synopsis of the Rhynchotal Genus Plisthenes.*

By W. L. DISTANT.

THIS genus of Tesseratominæ, founded by Stål in 1864, is liable by the large size and general resemblance of its representatives with their almost common area of distribution to have its different species unrecognized. This was absolutely the case with Stål, who, in enumerating the genus (En. Hem. i. p. 63), included the second species, *P. dilatatus*, Montr., more fully redescribed by Vollenhoven, as a synonym of *P. Meriana*, Fabr. I was subsequently (Trans. Ent. Soc. 1880,

* From "Cerne," an old name of the island of Mauritius.