

possible that the irritation created by these creatures may have been the cause of the *Nautilus* quitting its shell. If so, it tends to show that the animal possesses the power of *suddenly* detaching the shell-muscle from the shell. This is not surprising when the feebleness of the scar and the fact that a thin transparent membrane is secreted between the muscle and the scar upon the shell are taken into consideration. The muscle evidently has such a slight hold on the shell that a very small effort of contraction would release it. If the theory be correct that the *Nautilus* moves forward a certain space to form a fresh chamber, relaxing its hold on the shell by the lateral muscles of attachment, were there not some means of holding on there would be considerable risk of the shell falling away from its inhabitant. The siphon then, as suggested by Reeve, may be the means by which the shell is held in position during that process. It might be stretched the required length, or if moveable within the siphonal tube it might be pulled forward the length of the compartment, to be parted off by a new septum, and still leave sufficient in the old siphonal tube to hold the shell from slipping away. When the specimen observed by Mrs. Kenny quitted its shell, it appears to have snapped the siphonal membrane, for only about half an inch is still attached to the body.



**Abnormal *Helix aspersa*.**—I was much surprised when dissecting a specimen of *Helix aspersa*, a few days ago, to find that it was without a mandible, and had only an exceedingly small portion of the lingual ribbon. Where the mandible should have been there was a hard muscular band, about the length of the mandible but much broader, giving the animal the appearance of one with its mouth wide open. With the exception of a very narrow strip of chitin, the floor of the mouth was covered with the usual cartilaginous cushion, such as the ribbon usually lies upon. The specimen was one which I had had in confinement for some four years or so, and was full-grown when I collected it.—W. E. COLLINGE, Leeds.



Collinge, Walter E. 1887. "Abnormal *Helix aspersa*." *Journal of Conchology* 5(8), 227–227. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.405229>.

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