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Fossils of the exploring expedition under the command of Charles Wilkes, U.S.N.: a fossil fish from Australia, and a Belemnite from Tierra del Fuego

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MISCELLANEOUS.

APERA INTERRUPTA, Beauv.

I HAVE the pleasure of announcing the addition of this grass to the list of British natives. A few specimens of it were gathered on June 9, 1848, near Thetford by the Rev. W. W. Newbould, but not having then the means of determining their name, they were laid aside and did not undergo examination until recently. Early in July 1848 Mr. Newbould brought them to me as probable specimens of *Apera interrupta*, and I had the satisfaction of confirming his determination of the name. On July 4, 1848, we went together to Thetford and found the plant in small quantity on walls in the town (the Norfolk side), but in the utmost profusion in the neighbouring sandy district of Suffolk. The greatest quantity was seen between what, on the Ordnance Map, is marked as the 77th mile-stone (it is different on the stone itself) near Elvedon, and the words "Redneck Heath." A drawing of it has been made, which will be published in an early number of the 'Supplement to English Botany.'—C. C. B.

OROBANCHE PICRIDIS, F. W. Schultz.

This is another of Mr. Newbould's discoveries. It grows parasitically upon *Picris hieracioides* on the waste part of a field near Comberton in Cambridgeshire. The general appearance distinguishes the living plant from its allies, and as its technical characters will be found in almost any good continental flora, it is undesirable to occupy space with them here. The plant was in perfection on July 15, 1848, when Mr. Newbould conducted me to the spot where it grows, and although we examined carefully, we could not trace its attachment to any plants except the *Picris*; neither is it stated to prey upon any other plants on the continent. A drawing of this also is prepared for 'Eng. Bot. Supplement.'—C. C. B.

Fossils of the Exploring Expedition under the command of Charles Wilkes, U.S.N.: a Fossil Fish from Australia, and a Belemnite from Tierra del Fuego; described by JAMES D. DANA, Geol. of the Exped.

UROSTHENES (nov. gen.).—Allied to *Palæoniscus*.—Body elongated, prolonged into upper lobe of tail nearly to apex. Anal fin triangular, attached to the body as far as the base of the caudal. Dorsal fin directly over the anterior part of caudal. Ventral fin distant from the anal. Rays of the fins very fine and numerous; articulations oblong, the surface of each excavate.

Urosthene australis.—Body narrow oblong. Scales smooth and without markings, subquadrate, over the posterior part of the body transverse. Caudal fin slightly furcate. Anal fin larger than dorsal; two to four free spines or accessory rays just in advance of each of the fins; articulations of rays oblong rectangular, those of dorsal fin, near its base and outer margin, three or four times as long as broad, and surface fluted-excavated.—From the B coal-pit, Newcastle, on the Hunter, where it was obtained by Mr. James Steel,

the superintendent of the works, by whom the specimen was kindly submitted to the writer for description. The specimen is in the museum of the Newcastle Mechanics' Institute. The anterior part, to beyond the pectoral fins, is wanting. Length of part preserved 12 inches; width $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; near base of caudal fin 1 inch.

HELICERUS (nov. gen.).—Allied to *Belemnites*. Calcareous ossicle thick, subcylindrical, containing internally a slender tubular cavity, (a continuation probably of an alveolus above,) which terminates in a small fusiform chamber helicoidly divided. This chamber has the shape of two cones put base to base; the tube leading to it appears to have contained a rolled membrane to correspond with the turns of the spiral dissepiment in the fusiform chamber.

Helicerus fuegiensis.—Ossicle cylindrical, half an inch in diameter; diameter of tube within nearly one-sixth that of the fossil, and that of the chamber more than half the same. Texture of the ossicle radiating fibrous, like ordinary *Belemnites*. Found by the writer in a slate rock on the shores of Nassau Bay, near Cape Horn.—*Silliman's Journal for May 1848*.

NOTES ON SOME AUSTRALIAN FOSSILS. By J. D. DANA.

In the valuable article by F. M'Coy on the fossils of Australia (*Ann. Nat. Hist.* vol. xx. p. 145), which was published some months after the writer's article on this subject, but before that article had reached Mr. M'Coy, there are some species redescribed. We observe that

Cardinia ? *exilis*, M'Coy, is *Cardinia recta*, D.

Pleurotomaria Morrisiana, M'Coy, is *Pleurotomaria triflata*, D.

Pachydomus ovalis and *P. pusillus*, M'Coy, are species of *Astartila*, D., a genus nearer *Astarte* than *Pachydomus*.

Pachydomus sacculus, M'Coy, is a *Eurydesma*; *E. cordata* ? of Morris. (See Strzelecki's N. S. Wales, pl. 12. fig. 1.)

The genus *Notomya*, M'Coy, corresponds to *Pyramus*, D., and from the examination of our species, we cannot believe that they are related to the *Myidæ*.

The genus *Mæonia* of the author, (changed from *Myonia*), along with *Pyramus*, and probably *Cleobis*, make a natural group among the *Astartidæ*, having the smaller anterior muscular impression facing in the same plane with the larger anterior, and thus differing strikingly from *Astarte*, *Pachydomus*, *Astartila*, *Cardinia*. Moreover the larger anterior is prolonged upward, and is pointed, towards the smaller anterior muscular impression. *Mæonia* has a second small anterior muscular impression, situated high up on the beak: if this is not sufficient for a generic distinction, all the species may be thrown together in the genus *Mæonia*, as the gradations are such that it is difficult to draw lines of distinction. The *Pachydomus gigas* of M'Coy falls into the same group, being between *Cleobis* and *Mæonia* as these genera were before laid down. The group *Cleobis*, if sustained, would include species not having the sides at all excavate; but this hardly seems to be a generic character among these species. The *Pachydomus globosus* of Morris and M'Coy appears to be a different species from the *P. globosus* of Sowerby, whose figure