Annals and Magazine of Natural History

Series 2

ISSN: 0374-5481 (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah08>

Rare Irish Mollusca

Alexander G. Melville

To cite this article: Alexander G. Melville (1851) Rare Irish Mollusca, Annals and Magazine of Natural History, 8:47, 428-428, DOI: [10.1080/03745486109494995](https://doi.org/10.1080/03745486109494995)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03745486109494995>

Published online: 23 Dec 2009.

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exercise, to place an egg in it with the quickness of thought! But think you that this egg is merely laid in the usurped stigma? It must be fixed there, glued by a gummy liquor; and I have proved that a *sebific gland* exists for this purpose in the oviduct of the Diptera. Without this precaution the egg would be exposed to displacement during the constant action of the respiration of the beetle.

But this is not all that takes place. When the parasitic larva has completed its growth, it is called upon to undergo its metamorphosis to a pupa. No delay is allowed it; it detaches itself from the borrowed stigma,—its skin breaks its organic adhesions; its whiteness and transparency pass to a bright, opaque orange. It is nothing but a shell, the covering of a nymph, the swathed and mysterious image of the future fly.

I have said above that the living prison of the larva was without air and without issue; how then is the exit of these pupæ effected? Alas! this unnatural delivery costs the weevil its life. After its detachment, the larva, no doubt obeying an instinctive mission, tears the upper membranous coat of the apex of the beetle's abdomen. It fixes itself in this breach and there completes its transformation into a pupa. The maturity of this causes slight movements in the inclosed nymph, at the same time that by its titillation it provokes the expulsive efforts of the weevil. At last the pupa comes to light; it soon splits and opens at its thoracic region, and the active *Hyalomyia* darts into the air.—*Comptes Rendus*, 11 Août, 1851.

RARE IRISH MOLLUSCA.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Shantalla, September 18th, 1851.

GENTLEMEN,—The following rare Mollusca were recently obtained by dredging round the South Isles of Aran, Galway Bay:—

Neæra cuspidata; in 60 fathoms, about twelve miles to the westward of the Great S. Isle.

Tellina balaustina; two specimens alive with numerous single valves, in 20 fathoms, South Sound of Aran, opposite the southern point of the Middle Isle.

Anomia striata; depth uncertain, South Sound.

Nassa pygmæa; range 10 to 60 fathoms.

Buccinum Humphreysianum; a single young specimen alive, in 60 fathoms, along with *Neæra cuspidata*, *Natica sordida*, &c.

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

ALEXANDER G. MELVILLE.

On the Umbrella Bird (Cephalopterus ornatus), "*Ueramimbé*," L. G.
By ALFRED R. WALLACE.

Having had the opportunity of observing this singular bird in its native country, a few remarks on its characters and habits may not perhaps be uninteresting, at a time when a consignment from me will have arrived in England.