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Publisher: Taylor & Francis
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Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 6

Publication details, including instructions
for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah12>

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Published online: 12 Oct 2009.

To cite this article: Edgar A. Smith (1889) XX.—Diagnoses of new shells
from Lake Tanganyika , Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 6,
4:20, 173-175, DOI: [10.1080/00222938909460494](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222938909460494)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222938909460494>

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sufficient evidence of the absurdity of supposing that because the Arachnida are terrible to women they must therefore be equally alarming to birds.

The sting-like tentacles of the larva of *Dicranura vinula* are likewise no protection; three young Nightingales, which I had the year before last, never hesitated for a moment to use the tentacles as handles to assist them in knocking the life out of the caterpillar before devouring it.

XX.—Diagnoses of new Shells from Lake Tanganyika.

By EDGAR A. SMITH.

A SMALL series of shells from Lake Tanganyika has lately been purchased of Mr. Coode Hore by the British Museum. Among other interesting specimens are some very remarkable varieties of *Neothauma tanganyicense*, considerably larger and more finely developed than those originally described and showing also much variation in form. After careful consideration I cannot but regard all the five described species* of this genus as modifications of one and the same variable form.

The collection also contains some very fine examples of *Pleiodon Spekei*, Woodward, *Spatha tanganyicensis*, Smith, and *Unio Burtoni*, Woodward, fresh specimens of *Limnotrochus Kirki* but without opercula, a large form of *L. Thomsoni*, and a large, solid, tabulated variety of the ever variable *Paramelania nassa*. Taking the extreme forms of the last species, it seems impossible to regard them as belonging to the same species; yet in large series it becomes impossible to draw reasonable lines of specific limitation. Bourguignat in his absurd manner has already created twenty-three so-called species out of this remarkable shell!

Some specimens of *Spekia zonata*, Woodward, fortunately contain the operculum, which has not previously been observed.

It has the appearance of being rather small in proportion to the size of the shell. It is of a long ovate form, concave externally, concentrically striated except near the central nucleus, where it is paucispiral. The lower surface has a smooth glossy margin, broader on one side than on the other, and the muscular impression is dull, ovate, and marked with concentric lines of growth.

* *Vide* Grandidier, Bull. Soc. Mal. France, vol. ii, pp. 162-164; Bourguignat, Moll. terr. et fluv. du lac Tanganyika, 1885, pp. 25-29.

It is much of the same character as that of *Tanganyicia rufifilosa*, Smith, but is still more like a miniature of *Paramelania Damonii*, Smith.

Syrnolopsis carinifera.

Testa elongata, cylindræca, superne acuminata, subpellucido-alba, imperforata; anfractus 9, primi tres lævos, convexi, cæteri carinis validis duabus (una infra, altera supra suturam) instructi, inter carinas plani, fere læves, ultimus circa medium bicarinatus; apertura irregulariter subauriformis, longit. totius $\frac{1}{4}$ subæquans; peristoma continuum, margine externo late sed haud profunde sinuato, inferne producto, margine infra columellam quoque late sinuato, marg. columellari incrassato, in medio plica valida instructo.

Longit. 7, diam. 2 millim.

Var. Testa minor, carinis in anfractibus inferioribus plus minus obsoletis.

This species also has two palatal liræ, like *S. lacustris*, the typical species of the genus; but they are invisible unless the labrum is broken away for some distance. The texture and carinæ recall the genus *Pyrgula*, but the columellar fold &c. distinguish it. There is considerable difference between extreme forms of this species both in size and in the strength of the carinations. The smallest examples are not much more than half as long and broad as the largest, although they consist of as many whorls.

Reymondia minor.

Testa imperforata, ovata, superne acuminata, nitida, subpellucido-alba, zona lata pallide fusciscente infra suturam opaco-albo marginatam cineta; anfractus 7 sensim accrescentes, lævos, leviter convexi, ultimus in medio obtuse subangulatus, antice leviter ascendens; apertura ovata, superne leviter acuminata, longit. totius $\frac{2}{3}$ adæquans; perist. continuum, incrassatum, margine externo levissime expanso, columellari callo albo instructo.

Longit. $6\frac{1}{2}$, diam. 3 millim.; apertura $2\frac{1}{3}$ longa, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lata.

The general tone of this species is a very pale brown. On close inspection, however, the colour is not uniform throughout the shell. A very narrow, opaque white line revolves up the spire beneath the suture; below this there is a broad but indistinctly defined light-brownish zone, and on the body-whorl a second is feebly observable around the base, the interval between the two zones being semitransparent white.

Under a very strong power excessively fine spiral striae are discoverable in well-preserved specimens.

Reymondia tanganyicensis.

Testa minima, imperforata, ovata, superne acuminata, polita, sordide cornea, infra suturam lineis duabus angustis cincta (una nivea, altera inferiore sed contigua nigrescente); anfr. 5, convexiusculi, ultimus magnus; apertura irregulariter ovata, superne leviter acuminata, longit. totius $\frac{1}{2}$ subæquans; peristoma paulo incrassatum, margine externo leviter patulo, columellari valde incrassato, expanso, superne labro callo tenui juncto.

Longit. $3\frac{1}{2}$, diam. $1\frac{2}{3}$ millim.

This little shell appears to agree with Bourguignat's genus *Girandia* and is probably closely allied to his *G. præclara*. That genus and *Baizea*, also described by Bourguignat, appear to be founded upon very trivial characters and not well distinguishable from *Reymondia*. Indeed, I am almost inclined to believe that all of these so-called genera could well have been dispensed with until more is known about the various species which compose them. The well-known genus *Dydrobia* would, at present at all events, serve well for their reception.

Rissoa (Horea) Ponsonbyi.

Testa parva, ovata, superne acuminata, imperforata, vix nitens, dilute fusco-grisea; anfractus 7, convexiusculi, striis spiralibus numerosis, lineisque incrementi obliquis distinctis plus minus cancellati, sutura subprofunda sejuncti, ultimus subglobosus; apertura inverse auriformis, longit. totius $\frac{1}{2}$ fere æquans; labrum intus incrassatum, levissime patulum; columella infra medium albo callosa, superne callo tenuissimo labro juncta.

Longit. $6\frac{1}{2}$, diam. $3\frac{3}{4}$ millim.; apertura $3\frac{1}{2}$ longa, $1\frac{2}{3}$ lata.

The colour and sculpture of this interesting species recalls certain forms of *Plecotrema*, e. g. *Pl. concinna*, H. and A. Ad., *P. monilifera*, H. Ad., &c.

I have created a new section of Rissoidæ for it, as it does not conveniently associate itself with any of the known groups, and this (*Horea*) I have named in honour of Mr. E. Coode Hore, the discoverer of this and many other new and interesting Tanganyikan shells. It may thus be characterized:—

HOREA, subgen. nov.

Shell small, ovate, transversely striated, and cancellated by oblique lines of growth. Aperture with a thickened peristome; columella also thickened. Operculum unknown.