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those species in which the spores do not ripen until late in the autumn, the germination does not take place until the following spring, and occurs therefore at a time when none of the previous year's spermatozoids remain and no new ones are yet developed.

[To be continued.]

XXIV.—On *Rissoa pulcherrima*. By WILLIAM CLARK, Esq.

To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.

Norfolk Crescent, Bath, 14th Sept. 1857.

GENTLEMEN,

My friend Mr. Barlee, to whom all that are interested in malacological pursuits are under the greatest obligations, has just favoured me, from Guernsey, with many lively specimens of the *Rissoa pulcherrima* of recent authors, which has been constituted a species, solely, I believe, from conchological indices. I have therefore thought that some of your readers would be glad to have an account of the external organs of this, if it be so, undescribed animal.

Rissoa pulcherrima, Forbes and Hanley.

Shell spiral, ovately conical, pale yellowish-white, of $3\frac{1}{2}$ – $4\frac{1}{2}$ well-rounded volutions divided by a rather deep suture, and marked with 2–4 rows of distinct, palish rufous spots, which in other words are lines running from base to point, that are variously interrupted, so as to form well-separated, subquadrate, minute areas. The aperture is suboval, usually thin at the outer margin, with little or no umbilical fissure. Axis $\frac{1}{15}$ – $\frac{1}{20}$, diameter $\frac{1}{35}$ – $\frac{1}{45}$ of an inch.

Animal.—Ground-colour white, shot with the minutest snowy flakes and points, and blotched with dark smoke patches and lines, as well as with more or less yellow or sulphur-coloured suffusions on particular parts of the body. Mantle entire; but I did not detect the pendent filament from the aperture, which I have often mentioned as visible in the *Rissoa*, and which is perhaps the generative organ.

Rostrum moderately long, above longitudinally cloven or bilobed; buccal disk below having the usual vertical fissure, from which the animal frequently protrudes the white corneous jaws and masticatory processes; it is tinged with yellow hues, above and below, of various intensity and extent.

The tentacula are long, slender and flat, rounded at the tips, and horizontally clothed with fine setæ; the eyes are large,

very black, and fixed at the external angles on minute yellow mamelons.

Foot long, narrow and rounded in front, with minute auricles, and scarcely labiated; it is a little constricted at the junction with the body; the sole is impressed with a faint, central, longitudinal line, and the posterior termination is sublanceolate. The foot is also furnished with a large operculigerous plate, well alated at the hinder portion, and marked on each side with a dark irregular blotch, which often runs into stripes or fine lines at its margins; indeed, these markings vary, in most individuals, in shape, intensity of colour, and position. The black spot noticed by authors in the *Rissoa inconspicua* is sometimes, though not frequently, seen in this minute creature, and is often due to the phases of position of the lateral, dark, smoke-coloured patches that are often very apparent on the upper part of the alæ of the opercular lobe, which carries a grossly spiral, but finely striated, rissoidean, suboval, corneous operculum; and its caudal extremity is furnished with a very long, pointed, cirrhal filament, even more developed than in *Rissoa parva*.

The animal freely admits of the closest examination, and continues for several days with very little diminution of vivacity.

The object of this account of the animal of the so-called *Rissoa pulcherrima* is to propose its removal from the British list as a species, and to enable malacologists to compare these minutes with the recorded descriptions of what I consider its type—the common and very variable *Rissoa inconspicua*.

The agreement of the two appears complete in all essentials; the minor discrepancies arise from the minuteness of the object; but they yield at once to lenses of high power, which discover the elements of features that sufficiently prove the *pulcherrima* to be one of the endless varieties of the *Rissoa inconspicua*.

In support of these views on the soft parts, see Forbes and Hanley, 'Brit. Moll.' vol. iii. pp. 113–117; and myself in 'Brit. Mar. Test. Moll.' p. 358.

With regard to the shells I may state, that I have examples of the *inconspicua* taken by myself at Exmouth, of the same size as the *pulcherrima* found by Mr. Barlee at Guernsey; both having the partial spiral lines on the body-volution, and the peculiar and unmistakeable, often semi-obsolete, close-set, vertical ridges or striæ.

These united considerations are, I think, conclusive of the absolute affinity of the two animals.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM CLARK.