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XXXVIII.—Description of some new fossil shells from Bissex Hill and Springfield in Barbados

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Cyclostomata from the same quarter have opercula wound on a plane, as in a new species found by Dr. Jerdon in the Nilgherries, or beautifully ornamented and projecting beyond the peristome, as in *C. cornu-venatorium*. Of the last-named shell I lately took alive, near Point de Galle in Ceylon, specimens of a singular variety with a free deflected aperture analogous to that of *Cylindrella*.

XXXVIII.—Description of some new Fossil Shells from Bissex Hill and Springfield in Barbados. Communicated by Sir ROBERT H. SCHOMBURGK, Ph.D., Member of the Imperial Academy Nat. Curios. &c.*

Fam. SCALARIANA, Lam.

SCALARIA EHRENBURGI, E. Forbes. (Fig. 1.)

"S. testa brevi, obesa, ventricosa, anfractibus 5, longitudinaliter costulata, costis regularibus æqualibus, lamelliformibus, in ultimo anfractu 16; apertura rotundata, marginata..

"Shell ventricose and shortly conical, whorls about 5, rounded, longitudinally ribbed; the ribs equal, elevated, and not thick, numerous, 16 on the body whorls: no spiral ridge on the base:

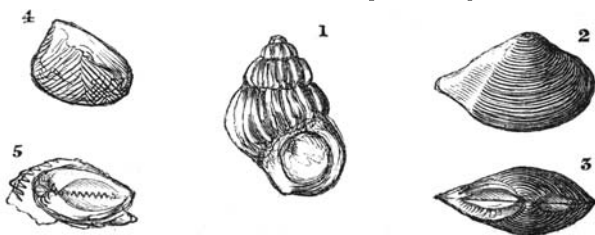


Fig. 1. *Scalaria Ehrenbergi*.

Fig. 2. *Nucula packeri*.

Fig. 3. The same, showing the dorsal margin.

Fig. 4. *Nucula schomburgkii*.

Fig. 5. The same, showing the dorsal margin.

marginal rib of the round aperture strong and high; columella broad and rather angulated at the base. Length $\frac{3}{10}$ of an inch: breadth $\frac{6}{10}$ of an inch.

"This remarkable species is allied to some tertiary forms, probably miocene. Among recent species its nearest ally is the *Scalaria crassilabrum* of Sowerby, jun., a species from the Philippines and Central America."

* The description of these interesting fossils is originally printed in my 'History of Barbados' (London, 1848, Longman, Brown and Co.); but as such a work possesses only local interest, and its circulation is consequently limited, it is not probable that naturalists in general would become acquainted with their description if it were restricted to the pages of that work. I have therefore requested the Editors to insert the account of these fossil shells in the 'Annals of Natural History.'—R. H. S.

I found this unique shell near the summit of Bissex Hill, imbedded in siliceous limestone. I am glad that my discovery of this new shell has afforded Professor Forbes an opportunity to name it after the learned Professor Ehrenberg, who, by his discovery of a new class of animalcules in the rocks of Barbados, has added another claim to our thanks for his indefatigable researches into the history of the most minute forms of organic life.

Mr. Edward Packer of Springfield forwarded to me during my stay in Barbados, a specimen of rock consisting of dark gray limestone inclosing small quartz pebbles, in which numerous shells of the genera *Nucula*, *Lucina*, *Pleurotoma* and *Venus* were so firmly imbedded as to form one mass. According to his description, this block lies isolated in the neighbourhood of Springfield, and I do not recollect having met with a similar rock *in situ* during my rambles in the island. I have to regret that the specimens of shells which I received from Mr. Packer were mostly very imperfect; this refers chiefly to the *Lucina* and *Pleurotoma*. One of the species of *Nucula* was very perfect, which, at my request, my friend Professor Forbes has named after Mr. Edward Packer, a gentleman who has taken great interest in my researches while in Barbados, and offered me many facilities in prosecuting them.

I have consented, not without some hesitation, to the specific name of the second species, upon which my kind friend Professor Forbes has insisted.

Fam. ARCACEA, *Blainv. and Lam.*

NUCULA (LEDA) PACKERI, *E. Forbes.* (Figs. 2 and 3.)

“N. testa oblonga, subtumida, transverse striata, longitudinaliter oblique unisulcata; latere postico productiore, attenuato, angulato, subacuto; antero rotundato; margine ventrali simplici, subsinuato; lunula oblongo-lanceolata, carinis elevatis cincta.

“Shell ovate or oblong, rather tumid, produced slightly retrally into a subcompressed acutely-angled beak, which is separated from the rest of the shell by a shallow furrow; the other extremity is rounded. The surface is crossed by very numerous transverse striæ with sharp intermediate ridges. The beaks are prominent. The lunule is well-defined and smooth, and bounded by two ridges, one of which is the margin of the upper part of the valves. The margins of the shell are smooth. Transverse dimension $\frac{8}{10}$ of an inch: beak to frontal margin $\frac{5}{10}$ of an inch.

“This form is allied to several existing tropical and subtropical *Nuculæ*, and to some crag forms.

NUCULA SCHOMBURGKII, *E. Forbes.* (Figs. 4 and 5.)

“N. testa ovato-elliptica, valde inæquilaterali, tumida, postice rotundata, antice abrupte truncata, lineis sæpe divaricatis sculpta; umbonibus subterminalibus; lunula lanceolata, marginibus denticulatis.

"Shell rather tumid, ovate, elliptic, very inequilateral, with the beaks nearly terminal at the truncated anteal extremity. The posteaal extremity rounded. An arched furrow runs from the beak to the margin at the anteal extremity. This furrow is smooth; the space in front of it is terminated by about a dozen nearly perpendicular curved grooves, bounding a somewhat impressed, nearly smooth indistinct area. Between the arched groove and in front of the border of the lunule, all over the shell are fine curving divaricating furrows, forming a series of elegant angular markings. Towards the cardinal margin these furrows curve inwards, widen, and have thicker interspaces, so as to denticulate the borders of the lanceolate and nearly smooth lunule. The ventral margin appears to have had smooth lips. The cast is smooth. Dimensions of the most perfect specimen, from beak to posterior angle, $\frac{5}{10}$: central breadth $\frac{4}{10}$: thickness $\frac{5}{10}$.

"This remarkable shell belongs to a group of *Nucula*, of which there are few known species, either living or fossil. The oldest known members of the section occur in cretaceous strata: *Nucula bivirgata*, Sowerby, and *Nucula ornatissima*, D'Orbigny, both gault species, are examples. Still nearer the West Indian species is the *Nucula Cobboldiae* of the crag, a species which lived on in the Celtic region of Europe till the elevation of the sea-bed of the glacial epoch caused its extinction. Two living *Nucula* represent this group, viz. *Nucula divaricata* and *Nucula castrensis*, both described by Mr. Hinds in the 'Zoology of the Voyage of the Sulphur'; the former was taken in twenty-four fathoms in the Chinese seas, and the latter dredged in seven fathoms, sand, at Sitka in North-West America."

XXXIX.—On the Insects of Jamaica. By PHILIP HENRY GOSSE.

[Continued from p. 270.]

63. *Brentus* (sp.). Taken on Bluefields Mountain early in June.

64. *Brentus* (sp.). Small. Taken in the same locality a day or two after the former.

65. *Brentus* (sp.). Intermediate in size between the preceding two. Taken at the Hampstead Road near the end of June.

66. *Pachnæus* (sp. near *opalus*). Numerous on the Hampstead Road in June, on low shrubs and herbaceous plants.

67. *Diaprepes Spengleri*. I found this weevil in some abundance on the stunted prickly trees growing in the Pedro Plains, about the middle of June. I also found it plentiful in the island of St. Thomas, about a month later.