

before, smaller and more delicate at the angles of the mouth; on the vomer and on the wings of the palate they are small and like velvet; eye round, near the summit of the head; scales rounded, large upon the sides near the pectoral fins, diminishing towards the back, and in approaching the tail and the abdomen, smaller, and subequal on all the pieces of the operculum; the snout, and the upper part of the head are destitute of scales; mandible and posterior mandible very strong and broad; dorsal fin divided into two nearly equal parts, the anterior spinous, elevated before, very low behind, and but little arquated; the posterior part more elevated and rounded; the anal fin short, extending beyond the dorsal, as in the species of the Ohio, so that its middle corresponds with the posterior base of the dorsal; the rays of the fins are also much divided and articulated; pectorals small and rounded; thoracic fins subtriangular, as long as the pectorals; operculum without any denticulation, or spine; lateral line oblique, undulated; the colour of this dried specimen is black on the back and lighter towards the abdomen.

We are indebted for this species to the researches of Messrs. Maclure, Ord, Say, and Peale, who brought it from East Florida.

5. *C. minima*. Dorsal long, spinous and soft parts of equal length, the former straight and very low; anal long, equal to the soft part of the dorsal; eye large.

Body very long sub-compressed, more elevated to-

wards the dorsal anteriorly; head arquated; eye very large; pupil and iris very large; dorsal fin long, divided into two equal parts, the anterior part of 9 spinous rays, and much lower than the soft part, which is rounded, with 14 divided rays; anal equal to the posterior part of the dorsal and of 13 rays, of which 3 are spinous; caudal of 15 to 18 rays; pectoral large, placed very low near the operculum; thoracic fin much smaller than the pectoral, and placed exactly beneath them; anal large; scales very small; colour deep gray, tinted with bluish on the back, with metallic reflections on the sides and abdomen, and with points or small black and brown spots on the abdomen and back, and a spot upon the neck; lateral line straight, on the middle of the body; caudal fin subtruncated, of 17 or 18 rays; teeth very small, in many ranges on the jaws and palate; mouth deeply divided.

Lives in the small lagoons of tranquil water, which discharge by narrow channels into Lake Eric.

Its length is 9 lines.

An account of some of the marine shells of the United States. By THOMAS SAY. Read July 24, 1821.

During occasional visits to our sea coast, and particularly on a journey to East Florida, in company with Messrs. Maclure, Ord, and T. Peale, I availed myself of every favourable opportunity to collect ma-

rine shells, whilst engaged in the pursuit of other and more favourite objects.

No naturalist, however conversant he may be with marine productions, can examine our sea coast for a single day with ordinary assiduity, without discovering something new or interesting to reward his labours, and to gratify his laudable curiosity. Accordingly, these researches furnished my cabinet with a great number of shells which were unknown to me, and of which many appeared to be unnoticed in those works on conchology to which I could obtain access.

But, supposing that these apparently new species, many of which, being either abundant in individuals, or attractive to the eye by beauty of colouring or symmetry of form, had been often observed by foreign naturalists and collectors, and in all probability had long since been transmitted to Europe, and perhaps published in some splendid volume, or, to us, obscure tract, of which the title had not yet reached this country, I was induced to relinquish any further investigation of the subject, and to dwell upon the hope of receiving more exotic information than we already possessed.

This course I was the more readily inclined to pursue, in consequence of being informed that an American zoologist had already commenced the examination of our marine shells, with the intention of publishing the result of his observations. Several years have, however, since elapsed without any addition to our knowledge in this department of Natural History, from the pen of an American author.

Several naturalists who now devote a portion of their attention to conchology, and particularly to that of the United States, having recently requested me to publish an account of our marine shells, I have thought it might be useful to communicate to them immediately, descriptions of those which I do not find to be distinctly described by attainable authors. Such species or varieties, only, are made known in the following essay.

With a view to condense this paper as much as possible, I have omitted the generic characters, but at the same time, I have been careful to subjoin to the generic names that are here adopted, abbreviations of the author's names, who formed them respectively, or whose generic definitions I have followed.

TYPE AND CLASS,

MOLLUSCA GASTEROPODA.

PATELLA. *Lin. Lam.*

*P. *amoena.* Shell oblong-oval, whitish reticulated with reddish-brown, and sculptured with numerous minute concentric wrinkles and close set radii; margin entire; apex placed behind the middle, and pointing backwards.

Coast of New England states.

Length of a small specimen, 7-20, breadth 4-5 of an inch. Breadth of a larger one 3-10 nearly.

My cabinet.

It may be readily distinguished in general by the beautiful reticulated disposition of the rufous colour,

It resembles the shell represented by Lister, plate 976, fig. 32. "*Buccinum B. r. parvum nigrum* toto læve." It is usually covered by a blackish pigment which obscures its character: within the aperture, on many specimens, a dull or obsolete whitish line may be seen.

The description shows the near approach of the shell to Montfort's genus *Phos*, to which it is as closely allied as the preceding species.

4. *N. *acuta*. Shell conic-acute, whitish, cancellated so as to appear granulated, granules prominent somewhat transverse, inequidistant, the transverse grooves being more profound and dilated than the spiral ones, which are six in number; *spire* longer than the body whirl, slender towards the tip, acute *suture* impressed, but not profoundly; *beak* distinguished by a depression from the body whirl, and slightly reflected; *labrum* incrassated, and with elevated lines upon the fauces, which do not attain the edge of the lip.

Length half an inch.

Inhabits the shores of the southern states.

Cabinet of the Academy and Philadelphia Museum.

A species which not unfrequently occurs, it is very distinct from the two preceding ones, and may be readily distinguished from them by the incrassated outer lip.

CERITHIUM, Brug.

SPECIES.

*C. *dislocatum*. Shell attenuated, acute at the apex; *volution*s with numerous, minute, revolving impressed lines, and from fifteen to eighteen transverse, elevated costa to each volution, which are dislocated near the summit of each volution by a revolving line, as deeply impressed as the suture.

Length one and one-fourth of an inch.

Inhabits the coast of the United States.

Cabinet of the Academy and Philadelphia Museum.

This shell is very common on the southern shores, particularly on that of East Florida, but I have also found specimens on the shore of Maryland. Lister tab. 979, fig. 36, represents a shell very similar to this, but larger.

The effect of the impressed line, which revolves above the middle of the volutions, is, to separate the longitudinal raised lines into two series, whereof the lines of the superior series, are much shorter and thicker than the others.