

The following papers were presented for publication :

“Description of four new species of Unionidæ from Brazil, by Isaac Lea.” “Description of fifteen new species of Uruguayan Unionidæ, by Isaac Lea.”

And were referred to a Committee.

Mr. Lea stated that when he made some remarks, a few weeks since, on the *Unionidæ* of the United States, he gave the number of them incorrectly by an inadvertence. He now desired to restate them numerically :

Unio,	465 species.
Margaritana,	26 “
Anodonta,	59 “

550

To these may be added, new species in his cabinet not yet described, 30

580

And to these may be added, for North America, known to inhabit Mexico, Honduras, Central America and one in Canada,

Unio,	29
Anodonta,	8
—	37

617

It will be observed that we have not in North America either of the genera *Triquetra*, (*Hyria*, Lam.) *Prisodon*, (*Castalia*, Lam.) *Monocondylæa*, *Mycetopus*, *Byssandonta*, or *Plagiodon*. They are all emphatically South American types, while there does not seem to inhabit the southern half of America a single species of *Margaritana*, (*Alasmodonta*, Say.) Ferussac has described a species (*A. incurva*) as coming from South America, but there is reasonable doubt of it. The *Monocondylæa* and *Margaritana* seem mutually to replace each other. The *Uniones* and *Anodontæ* prevail in both parts of the continent over all the other genera, both as to numbers and universality of distribution. The genus *Mulleria*, (*Acostea*, D'Orb.) has only been found in the tributaries of the Magdalena in New Granada.

Dr. Leidy called the attention of the members to a specimen of the singular body, named *Hyalonema mirabilis*, recently presented by Dr. Ruschenberger. It is the second specimen obtained within a short time for the Academy. Both are from Japan. The specimen of *Hyalonema* exhibited, consists of a twisted cord of siliceous spiculæ over a foot in length, and about half an inch in diameter. Twisted around it is a coriaceous membrane with wart-like eminences, belonging to a zoophyte, which Dr. L. regards with M. Valenciennes as parasitic. The cord of siliceous spiculæ, Dr. J. E. Gray supposes to be the axis of the zoophyte, but Dr. L. with M. Valenciennes, views it as belonging to a sponge. This latter view is apparently confirmed by a specimen of a sponge, in the cabinet of the Academy, from Santa Cruz, presented by the late Dr. Griffith. This sponge is an oblong oval mass, about four inches long, surmounted at one extremity with a corona of twisted cords of siliceous spiculæ about two inches in length. These spiculæ are very similar in structure to those of the *Hyalonema*, mainly differing in size.

The Publication Committee laid on the table, part 3, vol. 4, of the Journal of the Academy. 1860.]