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# TRANSACTIONS

AND

## PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

# NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE

1881

VOL. XIV.

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BY

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ISSUED MAY, 1882



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WELLINGTON  
LYON & BLAIR, PRINTERS, LAMBTON QUAY  
TRUBNER & CO., 60, PATERNOSTER ROW LONDON

ART. XXXVI.—*On some new Marine Planarians.* By T. W. KIRK,  
Assistant in the Colonial Museum.

[*Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, 20th August, 1881.*]

THE animals comprising this group are exceedingly interesting. They are usually thin, soft, and delicate; their varied colours, beautiful leaf-like forms and graceful movements render them attractive alike to the naturalist and the novice. They are, however, somewhat small, and adhere so closely to the sea-weed and stones amongst which they live as to require not only a sharp but an experienced eye to detect them.

Most of the members of this section are furnished with a pair of tentacles. In some species these are mere folds or ear-like projections, in others they assume the form of true tentacles, situate either occipitally or dorsally.

The mouth is situate on the under surface, in the median line, but may be either sub-central, pre-central, or post-central.

The ova may often be mistaken for those of nudibranch molluscs, being usually deposited in flakes on sea-weed, etc.

It is to be regretted that no preparation has yet been devised for preserving these animals without destroying the colouring, which is their chief beauty.

The two species now described were obtained in the neighbourhood of Wellington, and kept alive for several weeks. The shores of Cook Strait and Wellington Harbour appear particularly suited to them, and will, when thoroughly examined, probably yield many new and beautiful forms.

THYSANOZOOM.

*Thysanozoon huttoni*, sp. nov.

Body oblong, very thin, margin extremely irregular and puckered.

*Upper surface* uniform dirty yellow, irregularly blotched with brown, and having a broad, chocolate-coloured border.

*Under surface* steel grey, bordered with black; a broad, somewhat irregular patch of brown extends along the central two-thirds of the median line.

*Head* with two long tentacles of chocolate colour, but tipped with yellow.

Length, 2 inches.

Lyall Bay.

EURYLEPTA.

*Eurylepta herberti*, sp. nov.

Body moderate, veined dendritically, margin much crenated and puckered.

*Upper surface* pale cream colour, with a darker brown median stripe running the whole length; margin white, with an inner border of bright red, and another and narrower one of deep brown,

*Under surface* pale grey, with darker along the median line.

Tentacles short, pale cream colour tipped with red.

Eyes numerous at the base of the tentacles.

Length,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch.

Evans Bay.

Named after Mr. W. H. Herbert, to whom I am indebted for specimens of this beautiful species.

ART. XXXVII.—*Additions to the List of New Zealand Shells.*

By T. W. KIRK, Assistant in the Colonial Museum.

[*Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, 20th August, 1881.*]

*Buccinulus gracilis*, sp. nov.

WHORLS 8, finely and closely spirally grooved. Body whorl rather constricted in the middle; the spiral grooves are much finer at the anterior end of this whorl, and as they approach the lip, which is very thin and sharp. White.

Length .85 inch. Breadth .37 inch.

Wellington: collected by Mr. C. Holdsworth.

This shell is easily distinguished from *Buccinulus kirki*, Hutton, (the type of which is in the Colonial Museum), by the greater number of whorls, its more elongate and less robust appearance, and by the greater number and closer proximity of the spiral grooves.

*Buccinulus huttoni*, sp. nov.

Whorls six, with numerous fine spiral grooves. Columella with double fold, but more prominent than in the preceding species. Spire very short, giving a decidedly robust appearance to the shell. Ground colour, white with longitudinal brown wavy lines.

Waikanae.

*Neritina fluviatilis*, Linn.

*Neritina fluviatilis*, Jeffreys, Brit. Conch., i. p. 53.

Shell convex above, slightly compressed towards the spire, and almost concave below, solid, moderately glossy, yellowish or brown, with often brown or white zigzag streaks, spots, or bands, which run lengthwise or in a spiral direction, and marked with fine but distinct transverse striæ or plaits, which are more conspicuous towards the suture; epidermis thin: whorls three, rather convex, the last or lowermost exceeding two-thirds of the whole shell, increasing very rapidly and disproportionately in size; spire very short and oblique; suture rather deep; mouth of aperture semi-lunar; outer lip sharp; pillar-lip exceedingly broad, polished and flat, with a sharp and plain edge.