

TABLE II.—Measurements—Continued.

Current number of specimen	21,001 <i>b</i>	21,001 <i>c</i>	21,001 <i>d</i>	21,001 <i>e</i>	21,005 <i>a</i>	21,005 <i>b</i>	21,017	21,047 <i>a</i>
Locality	La Have.	La Have.	La Have.	La Have.	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.
	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.
Extreme length, in inches ..	10.2	11.5	12	12.25	15.75	19	16.25	19
Body:								
Greatest height.....	0.295	0.299	0.33	0.325	0.37	0.35	0.336	0.32
Least height of tail.....	0.065							
Head:								
Greatest length.....	0.16	0.16	0.165	0.16	0.155	0.155	0.157	0.155
Length of maxillary.....	0.04							
Length of mandible.....	0.06							
Diameter of orbit.....								
Pectoral:								
Distance from snout.....								
Length.....								
Ventral:								
Distance from snout.....								
Length (blind side).....	0.052	0.047		0.055	0.053	0.047	0.055	0.057
Length (eye side).....	0.065	0.058		0.065	0.062	0.063	0.06	0.063
Dorsal.....	115	110	107	113	105	120	106	111
Anal.....	97	95	83	98	92	100	90	95
Pectoral.....	11	11	12	13	12	11	12	10
Ventral.....	6	6		6	6	6	6	6
Number of scales in lateral line (blind side).....	112	130	115	117?	109	133	125	127
Length (eye side).....	119	123	110	117?	115	127	128	125

Current number of specimen	21,047 <i>b</i>	21,019 <i>a</i>	21,019 <i>b</i>	21,019 <i>c</i>	21,019 <i>d</i>	21,019 <i>e</i>	21,032	21,061 <i>a</i>
Locality	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.	Halifax.
	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.	100ths.
Extreme length, in inches ..	24.25	21.5	19	20	20.25	19	19.25	114 mm.
Body:								
Greatest height.....	0.37	0.365	0.375	0.316	0.33	0.34	0.365	0.245
Least height of tail.....		0.07	0.07					0.055
Head:								
Greatest length.....	0.175	0.16	0.156	0.152	0.155	0.15	0.175	0.165
Length of maxillary.....		0.03	0.03					0.045
Length of mandible.....		0.05	0.05					0.06
Diameter of orbit.....		0.05	0.05					0.06
Pectoral:								
Distance from snout.....		0.157	0.160					0.17
Length.....		0.14	0.11					0.08
Ventral:								
Distance from snout.....		0.17	0.17					0.20
Length (blind side).....	0.047	0.07	0.057	0.065	0.055	0.05	0.067	0.055
Length (eye side).....	0.03	0.077	0.067	0.075	0.06	0.06	0.077	0.055
Dorsal.....	106	109	113	106	114	102	106	104
Anal.....	92	93	99	91	97	87	90	87
Pectoral.....	12	12	11	11	11	11	11	14
Ventral.....	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Number of scales in lateral line (blind side).....	117	117	130	132	131	119	129
Length (eye side).....	122	121	130	117	127	115	125

NOTE ON SHELLS FROM COSTA RICA KITCHENMIDDEN, COLLECTED BY DRS. FLINT AND BRANSFORD.

By W. H. DALL.

In their archæological explorations in Costa Rica, while examining the shell-mounds of Culebra near the western coast, a number of shells were obtained from the mounds to exhibit the species of which the shell-heaps were composed. They are, of course, in a semi-fossil condi-

tion and usually broken, but the following species have been identified:—*Phyllonotus nigritus* Mensch., *Strombus gracilior* Sby., *Arca grandis* Brod., *Chione dionaea* Menke, *Cardium procerum* Sby., and *Cardium consors* B. & S. These species, which formed part of the food-supply of the former inhabitants, are abundant in the fauna of the Gulf of California at the present day.

FEBRUARY 22, 1878.

**ARSENIC ACID FOR PROTECTING ANATOMICAL PREPARATIONS
FROM INSECTS.**

By J. B. S. JACKSON, M. D.

Arsenic acid is most intensely strong, and comes in the form of a solid and of a liquid, and the two are of about equal strength. Half an ounce (avoirdupois) of the one, or one-half of a fluid-ounce of the other, is to be added to a pint (f $\bar{3}$ xvj) of soft water, and it is ready for use. Any membranous preparation that is to be distended and dried, as a portion of the alimentary canal, any of the hollow organs, an ovarian cyst, an aneurism, and many preparations that are not to be distended, will be most thoroughly protected, I believe, by the arsenical solution. A solution of corrosive sublimate will probably prove an equal protection; but the membrane, when dried, has a disagreeably opaque and ash-colored look, whereas, after the arsenical solution, it dries without any change. I cover the preparation fairly with the solution, and leave it for about twenty minutes, then take it out, let it drain, then inflate or distend it, and, lastly, hang it up to dry.

BOSTON, MASS., February 19, 1878.

THE OCEANIC BONITO ON THE COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.

By G. BROWN GOODE and TARLETON H. BEAN.

A specimen of the Oceanic Bonito, *Orcynus pelamys* (Linné) Poey, was captured off Provincetown, Mass., in July or August, 1877, and taken to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy by Mr. James H. Blake. The specimen was lent to the Fish Commission for study. Drawings have been made, and a table of measurements and description are here presented.

The specimen measures 447 millimetres (17.6 inches) to the end of the caudal carina. In form it closely resembles *Orcynus alliteratus*. The caudal rays are frayed, and their length cannot be exactly determined. The height of the body is a trifle more than one-fourth (0.26) of the length. The circumference of the body (0.71) is equal to the distance from snout to origin of anal (0.70). The length of the head (0.30) is