

# ON A SLUG OF THE GENUS VERONICELLA FROM TAHITI.

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During the expedition of the U. S. Fish Commission steamer *Albatross* to the South Seas, under the direction of Dr. Alexander Agassiz, collections were made on shore at various points and a few land mollusks were obtained. Among these was a specimen belonging to the genus *Veronicella*, naked slugs which are common to many warm countries and often very injurious to gardens. Being nocturnal in their habits and capable of extreme elongation, so that they can pass through very narrow chinks, they have been known to destroy an entire crop of early tomatoes on one of the Florida Keys without being detected until search was made at night with lanterns. During the hours of daylight they retreated to the interstices of the coral rock where in this case, although existing in immense numbers, they remained invisible. The present specimen was submitted to the author of this paper, who has made a special study of these animals, in order that the species might be determined and any facts of interest in regard to it be placed on record.

## VERONICELLA AGASSIZI, new species.

*Type*.—No. 161956, U.S.N.M.

*Description*.—Length, about 21 mm.; breadth,  $9\frac{1}{2}$ ; breadth of sole, 3; female orifice from sole, 2, from margin, scarcely 2, from anterior end about 11 mm; these measurements all from a dried individual. Dorsal surface granular with small warts; color, coffee-brown marbled with black; no dorsal band. Under surface whitish. Anatomy not determinable from the material available.

*Habitat*.—Tahiti: Tipaerui Valley, under bark of dead trees, collected by Dr. Alexander Agassiz. (*Albatross* expedition.)

Apparently nearest to *V. gilsoni* Collinge, from the Fiji Islands, but the sole is broader (*agassizi* 3, *gilsoni* 2.5 mm.) and the female generative orifice appears to be more distant from the sole. In size and color the animal agrees fairly well with *gilsoni*; at least, the difference of color might be due to variation. From *V. brunnea* Collinge, of the New Hebrides, our animal differs in the position of the female generative orifice. *V. plebeia* Fischer, from New Caledonia, may also be compared.

It will be noticed that the species of the Pacific Islands are all very small.

If this species inhabited some continental area, it would not appear worth while to describe the inadequate material obtained; but the occurrence of a *Veronicella* in Tahiti is so interesting that it seems desirable to call attention to it. The marine currents appear to set from Tahiti toward the Fijis, New Caledonia, etc., so it does not seem likely, on the surface of things, that the *Veronicella* reached Tahiti on floating trees. Tahiti also seems to be out of the way of commerce from the islands westward, though this is a matter on which I am not well informed.

It may be useful to give a list of the species of *Veronicella* described from the Asiatic and Pacific islands since the publication of the check-list of slugs in 1893.

**VERONICELLA SCHNEIDERI** (Simroth).

*Vaginula schneideri* SIMROTH, SB. Ges. Leipzig, XIX (1895), p. 7—Sumatra.

**VERONICELLA GIGANTEA** (Godwin-Austen).

*Vaginula gigantea* GODWIN-AUSTEN, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1895, p. 451—Andaman Islands.

**VERONICELLA DJILOLOENSIS** (Simroth).

*Vaginula djiloloensis* SIMROTH, Abh. Senckenb. Ges., XXIV, p. 140—Halmahera, Moluccas.

**VERONICELLA BORNEENSIS** (Simroth).

*Vaginula borneensis* SIMROTH, Abh. Senckenb. Ges., XXIV, p. 142—Borneo.

**VERONICELLA MELATOMUS** (Sarasin).

*Vaginula melatomus* SARASIN, Die Land-Mollusken von Celebes (1899), p. 70—Celebes.

**VERONICELLA BOVICEPS** (Sarasin).

*Vaginula boviceps* SARASIN, Die Land-Mollusken von Celebes (1899), p. 70—Celebes.

**VERONICELLA BRUNNEA** Collinge.

*Veronicella brunnea* COLLINGE, Willey's Zoological Results, 1899, pt. iv, p. 435—New Hebrides.

**VERONICELLA GILSONI** Collinge.

*Veronicella gilsoni* COLLINGE, Journ. of Malac., VII (1900), p. 179—Fiji Islands.

**VERONICELLA WILLEYI** Collinge.

*Veronicella willeyi* COLLINGE, Willey's Zoological Results, 1899, pt. iv, p. 431—Loyalty Islands.