

A REMARKABLE CENTRAL AMERICAN MELANIAN.

BY H. A. PILSBRY.

Some months ago Dr. Wm. H. Dall sent to the writer for comparison with the series in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, a peculiar *Pachycheilus* from Central America which he believed to be undescribed. The specimen proved



Pachycheilus Dalli.



to be totally different from anything yet made known, and may be briefly characterized as a species of the *Pachycheilus laevissimus* group, with the aperture characters resembling the genus *Melanatria* of Madagascar.

It is about equally similar to *P. laevissimus* var. *indorum* Morelet and *P. chrysalis* Brot, having the short aperture of the former, and the color-tone and robust growth of the latter; but it is a stouter shell in figure than either, with the last whorl decidedly more convex. The operculum is like that of other species of *Pachycheilus*.

Pachycheilus Dalli n. sp.¹

Shell ovate turreted, solid, dusky olivaceous-yellowish, with more or less distinct irregular and interrupted longitudinal black streaks. The surface is covered by a strong cuticle, beneath which the shell substance is white with livid stains; smooth to the naked eye, but showing fine, superficial growth-lines under the lens, cut by minutely wavy close spirals into a microscopic granulation, most noticeable near suture and base, but often almost obliterated on the body-whorl. Whorls numerous, but owing to erosion but 6 or 7 remain, the earlier ones nearly flat, last two or three convex.

¹ See Science (n. ser.) III, p. 608, April 17, 1896. This is the species recorded as "*Pachycheilus walli*" in Zoologischer Anzeiger, No. 502, 4 Mai, 1896, foot of p. 223. It is an unfortunate typographical error, not traceable to the record as officially furnished by the Academy.

Aperture trapezoidal, white within, with livid brown or purplish tracts. Outer lip having a very deep rounded sinus a short distance below the suture, its outer portion then produced forward in a broad rounded lobe, retracted again on the lower outer portion, and produced in a more or less prominent narrow lobe at base. Columella concave; parietal wall covered by a transparent film, with a slight callus developed near the posterior angle of the aperture.

Alt. 52, diam. 25 mm. Alt. 54, diam. 27 mm. Alt. 53, diam. 28 mm.

Described from four adult and four young specimens in collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and one adult in collection of the United States National Museum. The latter specimen, having suffered least erosion, is figured.

The peculiar sinuosity of the lip is strictly an adult character. In most specimens it is not perceptible a half whorl back from the lip-edge, although in the last of those measured above, the sigmoid contour is seen in the growth lines almost a full whorl back. Four young specimens examined have the lip hardly more bent than in the ordinary *Pachycheili*.

The altitude given above is, of course, measured on decollate specimens. A young shell 52 mm. high has 7 whorls left; one measuring 33 mm. high has $7\frac{1}{2}$, and probably has lost about $1\frac{1}{2}$.

Specimens subsequently received from Dall, collected by Dr. Spear in Tehuantepec, are dark chestnut colored, with traces of darker streaks, and the sinuation of the lip is somewhat less deep than in the types. The columella is brown. One very old specimen approaches a cylindrical form, measuring, in its truncated condition, alt. 51, diam. of last whorl 27, diam. of the truncated top 16 mm. Somewhat less than three whorls are left.