

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

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NOTE ON THE NAME *HENDERSONIA*.

In Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Quarterly issue, No. 1590, p. 187, July 1, 1905, I proposed the name *Hendersonia*, for a remarkable new genus of *Urocoptidæ* from Mexico. I am now informed that in a publication by Wagner (Vienna, 1905) entitled 'Helicineen Studien,' which has not yet reached our library, the same name has been proposed for our well known *Helicina occulta* Say.

I would therefore modify the name proposed by me into *Hendersoniella* in order to avoid the conflict which renders the later use of the name impracticable.—*William Healey Dall*.

NOTE ON THE EARLIEST USE OF THE GENERIC NAME *PURPURA* IN BINOMIAL NOMENCLATURE.

The name *Purpura* from early times was applied by the ancients to the mollusk from which the Tyrian purple dye was derived. This is definitely known to be the *Murex trunculus* of Linné. In harmony with this tradition the name *Purpura* was used in general for the *Muricidæ* by prelinnean writers on conchology. Much later it became known that certain other gastropods yielded a purple dye, and these were colloquially united with the murices under the name *Purpura*. The first printed work treating of shells was the *De Purpuræ* of Fabius Colonna in which he figures the *Murex trunculus*. The earliest use in binomial nomenclature of the name *Purpura* is by T. Martyn in the *Universal Conchologist*, Vol. I, fig. 66, 1784, for the shell later called by Gmelin *Murex foliatus*, and more recently *Cerostoma foliatum* by Carpenter. It is in harmony with tradition a muricoid; and the same view was taken by Bolten in 1798 who began his list of *Purpura* with *Murex trunculus*. As *P. foliata* is the only species of *Purpura* occurring in the first two volumes of Martyn, it must necessarily typify the group bearing this ancient designation. The shells ordinarily catalogued under this generic name were not separated by Lamarck until 1799, from the heterogeneous Linnean murices and buccina.

—*William Healey Dall*.