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PROCEEDINGS

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A NEW SHIPWORM.[1]

BY PAUL BARTSCH.

The United States National Museum has received several sendings of shipworms from Mr. A. Reyne, of the Agricultural Experiment Station, at Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, which prove to belong to an undescribed species. These mollusks, Mr. Reyne states, destroy sluices built of greenheart wood (*Nectandra rodiaei* Schomburgk) in a very short time. This wood was believed to be immune to shipworm attacks, and since I understand large quantities of greenheart timber are used at the Canal Zone, which is not distant from Dutch Guiana, it should prove of especial interest to us. The new mollusk is so distinct from any of the known species of *Teredo* that I shall assign it to a new subgenus which may be known as:

Neoteredo, new subgenus.

The characters which differentiate this subgenus from typical *Teredo* are the sudden downward bending of the posterior edge of the median portion of the shell, the very short posterior auricle which extends inward to form a broad shelf for muscular attachment and a very short broad blade which is far more posteriorly directed and has the flat side almost at right angles in position, to that of typical *Teredo.* I take pleasure in naming the type of the subgenus for its discoverer. It may be known as:

Teredo (Neoteredo) reynei, new species.

Shell subglobular; exterior cream-yellow excepting the central portion of the median part, which is dark brown gradually shading to light brown posteriorly; interior bluish white.

Exterior:

The anterior portion consists of an outer roughly grooved area at the

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extreme anterior edge, followed by the main anterior portion which bears dental ridges and is about two and a half times as broad as the part just mentioned. The dental ridges are of quite regular width and spacing; they curve upward at their anterior limit, then extend in an even curve across the shell to meet the anterior end of the dental ridges of the median portion. In the type, 125 of these dental ridges are present. These ridges are about as wide as the grooves that separate them. They are triangular with the dorsal slope a little more abrupt than the vertical, the edge being finely serrated. The depressions between the denticles pass down on both sides of the dental ridge as fine incised lines. There are about six denticles present on the ridge in a distance equal to that separating ridge from ridge. The dental ridges of the anterior and median part meet almost at right angles. The denticles on the median part are slightly stronger than those on the anterior ridges. The dental ridges of the median portion terminate rather abruptly without change of curve at the junction of the anterior median with the posterior median portion. The posterior median portion is marked by coarse transverse wrinkles on its anterior third, from which lesser lines of growth take a sudden upward curve and extend partly over the rest of the shell. The posterior median portion is suddenly deflected inward, giving this portion of the shell a truncated appearance at the posterior margin. This part is finely granulose above the median portion of the posterior auricular part, while ventrally it is faintly longitudinally grooved. The posterior portion of the shell is produced into a short auricle, which is marked by the continuation of the feeble grooves extending over it from the posterior portion of the median part.

Interior:

The umbonal knob has a strong, narrow, blade-like tooth extending obliquely into the cavity. A strong oblique shelf for muscular attachment extends from the umbonal tooth to the ventral termination of the posterior auricle, overarching the umbonal cavity. The blade for muscular attachment is thin, short and decidedly flattened. It is inserted under the umbonal tooth, extending obliquely backward, the tip pointing to a position midway on the ventral edge of the posterior part. In *Teredo* s. s. the blade usually has its flat surface parallel to the ventral curvature of the interior of the shell, while here the revers is almost true, for the narrow edge almost parallels the interior. The extreme ventral portion of the median part is provided with a strong rounded knob, while the middle of the median portion is decidedly roughened within.

The type, Cat. No. 338240, U. S. N. M., measures from umbone to base 12.2 mm.; from the anterior to the posterior edge, 12.3 mm.; diameter, 13.4 mm.; palets, length 7.2 mm.; diameter 2.5 mm.