

Description of two new Genera and new species of recent Shells, &c.

By T. A. CONRAD.

PARAPHOLAS, *Con.*

Shell pholas-like; accessory valves two, nearly similar in form, elongated, one extending from the umbo to the posterior extremity; the other united to the base; hinge plate thick; adductor muscular impressions greatly elongated.

PHOLAS CALIFORNICA, *Con.* Jour. Acad. Nat. Sc., vol. 7, p. 236 pl. 15, fig. 35.

CRYPTOMYA.

Shell bivalve, closed or very slightly gaping posteriorly; hinge similar to that of Mya; pallial impression without a sinus, forming a right angle posteriorly.

SPHÆNIA CALIFORNICA, *Con.* Jour. Acad. Nat. Sc., vol. 7, p. 234, pl. 17, fig. 11.

Lyonsia floridana.

OSTEODESMA HYALINA? *Con.* Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sc., vol. 3, p. 24, pl. 1, fig. 7.

Leguminaria floridana.

SOLECURTUS FRAGILIS, var. *Con.* Proceed. Acad. Nat. Sc., vol. 3, p. 24, pl. 1, fig. 10.

PLECTOLITHES, *Con.*

PLECTOSTYLUS HILDRETHII, *Con.* Vol. 8, p. 275, pl. 17, fig. 2.

Triton nobilis.

Body whorl dilated, humped on the upper part, about which three of the ribs are prominent, rounded; the lower one broadest. Length 11 inches. Width $5\frac{3}{4}$ inch. (West Indies.)

TRITON VARIEGATUS, Reeve. Conch. Icon. pl. 1, fig. 3a.

PSAMMOBIA CALIFORNICA, Journ. Acad. Nat. Sc., vol. 7, pl. 19, fig. 3.

The Committee on Mr. Cassin's descriptions of new Owls, reported in favour of publication.

Descriptions of Owls, presumed to be undescribed, specimens of which are in the collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

By JOHN CASSIN.

EPHIALTES *sagittatus*, nobis. Adult? Entire plumage above rufous brown, inclining to chestnut; plumage of the head with small pale spots encircled with black, bordering the shafts of the feathers, and near the tips assuming a hastate or sagittate form.

Plumage of the back with every feather having about three to five spots of the same description, the arrow-headed shape and black border distinct and well defined, some of the spots nearly white; every feather also with very fine transverse lines, and minutely dotted or freckled with black.

Wing coverts with pale, nearly white, sagittate spots encircled with black. Internal coverts of the wings pale fawn yellow, more or less spotted with black, and with their tips broadly terminated with black, which forms a conspicuous bar on the inferior surface of the wing. Outer edge of scapulars nearly white with black spots. External webs of primaries with alternate bands of pale and darker rufous brown; internal webs much darker, with nearly black bands alternating with others slightly paler, which (the paler) are mottled with black towards the extremities of the quills. Exposed ends of the secondaries rufous brown, with large pale spots on the shafts, approaching the sagittate form, with their black borders extending into transverse narrow bands. First primary shortest, fifth and sixth longest.

Feathers encircling the eyes, and the long bristle-like feathers at the base of the bill dark chestnut brown, the latter freckled with black; between the eye and the cavity of the ear whitish, with transverse lines, and broadly tipped with deep rufous brown. Feathers of the ruff white at their bases, with narrow transverse lines of deep rufous, but presenting a broad subterminal band of pure white, every feather terminated with a semicircular or lunular band of bright rufous brown.

Front and superciliary region white, the feathers of the former with their shafts and with some minute marks of very dark brown, superciliary feathers with well defined tips of nearly black. Shorter (or anterior) feathers of the ear-like tufts white, with minute transverse lines and freckles of rufous brown, longer feathers of the tufts brown on their external and white on their internal webs, transversely lined and tipped with darker brown.

General colour of the under surface of the body very pale rufous and sordid yellowish white, on the breast with every feather having about five to seven very narrow transverse bands more or less distinctly defined, of blackish brown, and minutely and irregularly dotted with the same colour. Abdominal region with the bands less numerous, and many of the feathers having several irregularly shaped, though rather rounded and sagittate spots of nearly black.

Tarsi covered to the toes with pale rufous whitish feathers. Toes naked.

Tail same rufous brown as the back, with alternate bands of darker and paler shades, in some instances the paler band on the external opposite to the darker band on the internal web.

Bill and feet yellow, claws long and slender.

Total length of skin, about 10 inches, wing 7, tail $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

Very young. Upper surface of the head and body pale yellowish and sordid rufous, every feather with several narrow transverse dark lines. Breast and belly darker, with the spots more distinctly rounded and occupying the whole breast and inferior surface.

Wings and tail more fully developed than the other plumage.

Hab. India?

One specimen of this species, without label, belongs to the Rivoli collection; another, which is that of a young bird, labelled Malacca, has been received from Mr. Edward Wilson, who obtained it in Paris. I am acquainted with no species of *Ephialtes* with which this can readily be confounded, and, in fact, it looks more like Dr. Horsfield's plate of *Strix (Phodilus) badius*, than any other which

I have met with, and is about the same size, (as the figure,) while in general appearance, particularly in the colouring of the breast and belly, it bears some resemblance to *Strix (Lophostrix) cristata*, Daud., (*griseata*, Lath.) It is, however, a true *Ephialtes*, though an aberrant species. The sagittate spots distinguish it, and as far as I know are peculiar.

EPHIALTES Watsonii, nobis. Summit of the head black, with a few very minute pale spots, more numerous on the front and eyebrows. Shorter feathers of the ear tufts black, others black also, but with their inner webs spotted or mottled with white. A semicircle above the eye extending to the ear tufts, black; rigid feathers at the base of the bill black, with pale grayish terminations; feathers immediately below the eye gray, mottled and broadly tipped with black.

Discal feathers grayish white, many of them speckled, and all tipped with black, presenting a white and black semicollar or ruff on each side of the neck. Plumage of the throat with fine alternate bars of black and nearly white.

Neck above with a well defined collar, the feathers composing which are strongly fulvous, terminated with white and speckled with black.

Back, rump, tail, and wing coverts mottled and freckled with grayish white upon a black ground, many of the feathers having about three to five very irregular transverse bands of whitish; on the wing coverts and back some of the pale marks are almost circular with black centres, others are of irregular form also enclosing centres of black.

External webs of the primaries black, with subquadrate nearly white bars, nearly all of which have black centres, assuming, also, a more or less well defined square form. Internal webs of primaries with alternate bands of different shades of black.

Breast and entire inferior parts pale fulvous, every feather conspicuously marked on the shaft longitudinally with black, and with very irregular transverse bands and irregularly mottled with black; the black markings most numerous and most irregular on the breast. Many of the feathers on the breast with very pale nearly white spots, having somewhat the appearance of being distributed in pairs.

Tail black, with about seven or eight narrow irregular grayish bands, many of which have central lines of black.

Tarsi feathered to the toes, pale fulvous white, mottled with black.

Bill horn colour at the base, whitish at the tip.

Total length (of skin) about $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, wing 7, tail $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Younger? Plumage above paler, with small spots and minute freckles of grayish white, scarcely assuming the appearance of bands.

Breast with the dark markings predominating, and tending to form a broad pectoral band; lower parts of the body bright fulvous, with black marks.

Hab. South America.

This species bears some resemblance to *Ephialtes atricapilla*, (Natt.) Temm. pl. col. 145, but is much larger, and has only one nuchal collar. The general colour above is also much darker; the fulvous colouring of the inferior surface of the body is also a striking difference.