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A SUPPOSED MOLLUSCAN EGG-NIDUS.

By

CHARLES HEDLEY.

(Figure 1.)

A curious article was collected in March, 1923, on the beach at Cronulla, New South Wales, and sent for identification to the Museum by Mr. Adam Broadfoot.

It consists of a band of sand grains glued together and spirally rolled into the shape of a bowl open at the bottom. This coil overlaps for half a whorl or more, is grey speckled with black, thin and friable, in texture like a Scotch oat-cake. The base is contracted, evenly truncated with a vertical edge, the middle is bulged out, and the upper rim is vertical, frilled or ragged. In diameter the top is 55 mm., the base 30 mm., and the height is 30 mm.

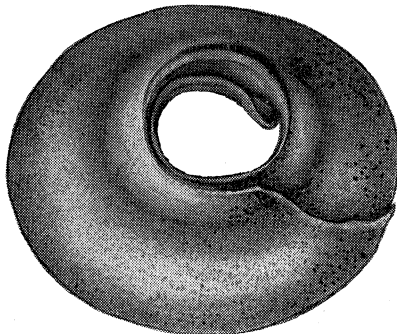


Fig. 1.

This object has so close a resemblance to the egg-nidus of *Natica* described by European authors as to suggest that it may be the product of *Polinices aulacoglossa*. Different species probably construct their nidus on a slightly different pattern.

As I cannot detect in this mass any molluscan eggs, I am unable to determine its nature satisfactorily. This account is penned to invite scientific beach-combers to investigate the subject further.

Literature on *Natica nidus* is as follows:—

- Hogg, J.—*Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond.* xiv, 1825, pp. 318-321, pl. ix, figs. 1-8.
Reviewing previous literature.
Forbes, E., and Hanley, S.—*Hist. Brit. Moll* iii, 1853, p. 328.
Harvey, W. H.—*The Sea-side Book*, 4th ed., 1857, p. 65.
Jeffreys, J. G.—*Brit. Conch.*, iv, 1867, pp. 213, 222.
Gould, A. A.—*Invert. Massachusetts*, 1870, p. 339.
Cooke, A. H.—*Molluscs, Camb. Nat. Hist.*, iii, 1895, p. 126, text fig. 41; copied by Simroth, *Bronn's Tier-Reichs, Mollusca* iii, 1907, pl. 46, fig. 12.
White, B. C.—*Marvels of the Universe*, ii, n.d., p. 776, text fig. "A sand saucer."