

# A REVISION OF THE GENUS *ASTARTILA*.\*

BY

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(Plates xxv-xxix.)

## INTRODUCTION.

In his preliminary notes<sup>1</sup> on the fossils collected during the Wilkes Expedition, Dana gave specific descriptions of *Astartila intrepida* (which has to be regarded as the type species of the genus), *cyprina*, *cytherea*, *polita*, *transversa*, and *corpulenta*.

This species was separated from his *Astarte gemma* by being "more transverse and inequilateral than is characteristic of that genus, and the ligament is longer, occupying the whole cardinal area. The beak of an interior cast has the summit obliquely truncate, and the lateral surface just posterior to the middle is more or less flattened. The large muscular impressions are broad sub-elliptical or suborbicular, with the upper side often straight. The smaller anterior is situated under the beaks as in *Astarte*. The external surface is concentrically striate. The valves at middle are quite thin, hardly one-sixtieth of an inch in the first of the following species (*A. intrepida*), and they thicken below towards the margin, where the same species is half a line thick. Although we have not yet made out the teeth of the hinge, we propose to describe the species under the generic name *Astartila*."

He remarks that he has not seen teeth in *Astartila*, but (p. 154) he states "The impression of two divergent teeth is finely preserved."

In his completed memoir<sup>2</sup> he defines *Astartila* as "Equivalve, inequilateral, transverse, throughout convex, externally marked with concentric striæ. Ligament external, extending to the posterior extremity of the cardinal area; umbos of moderate size. Palleal

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\* Unless otherwise designated, all specimens are from the Varney Parkes Collection.

<sup>1</sup> Dana.—Amer. Jour. Sci., (4), ii, 1847, p. 155.

<sup>2</sup> Dana.—U.S. Explor. Exped. during the years 1838-42 under the command of Charles Wilkes, U.S.N., Vol. x, Geology. Philadelphia, 1849.