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REDISCOVERY OF *VOLUTA BRAZIERI* COX.

By

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MORE than sixty years ago Cox¹ described *Voluta (Callipara) brazieri* from Wooli Wooli, Clarence River, New South Wales, giving a coloured figure of the back view about two inches in length. The measurements of the shell read: length 1.10 inch, breadth 0.55 inch, i.e., 28 mm. by 14 mm.

Thirty years later the unique type passed into the collection of the British Museum, and Smith² wrote a note pointing out the inadequacy of the illustration and redescribed it, giving another figure from in front, also about two inches long. Smith, however, concluded that it had been referred to *Callipara* from a vague resemblance only, and that it had more the characteristics of *Lyria*, and then suggested that it was merely a monstrous growth of *Voluta deliciosa* Montrouzier³ from New Caledonia. Acting upon Smith's advice, Hedley⁴ admitted *Lyria deliciosa* in his Check-List, synonymizing *V. brazieri*. However, Hedley also allowed *Lyria nucleus* Lamarck, the type of *Lyria*, under the name *L. pattersonia* Perry in that list. The latter is the type of *Lyria*, and *deliciosa* is merely the new Caledonian relative, *pattersonia* being a common Norfolk Island shell. It was apparent that both could not, under normal circumstances, occur in this State, and study of Cox's figure with Smith's illustration appeared to negative Smith's conclusion.

Mr. C. Laseron, who has been responsible for most of the recent additions to our local fauna, travelled to Forster, near Cape Hawke, and there secured many species from Point Halliday not common around Sydney. He enlisted the cooperation of a local naturalist, Mr. Muddle, who sent him more shells, and then recently brought some more down to Sydney. Among these, Mr. Laseron detected a strange little Volutid, which I immediately recognized as the missing *Voluta brazieri* Cox. It proved, certainly, that the original shell was normal, that it was not *Lyria montrouzieri*, and was not even congeneric. It was then found that Cox had been anticipated in his specific choice by Brazier,⁵ so that a new name is necessary. In view of the confusion surrounding the original shell now in the British Museum, I am not renaming that specimen, but am describing the shell before me as a new genus and species.

Genus *Lyreneta*, nov.

Type *L. laseroni*, nov.

Shell small, sub-coniform, spire very short, mouth elongate, almost equalling length of shell, outer lip sinuously curved, thin, anterior canal broadly open,

¹ Cox.—*Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.)*, 1873, p. 568, pl. xlvi, fig. 8, Nov.

² Smith.—*Proc. Mal. Soc. (Lond.)*, vi, pl. 178, text-fig., Sept., 1904.

³ Montrouzier.—*Journ. de Conch.*, vii, p. 375, June, 1859; *id.*, viii, p. 121, pl. 2, figs. 7, 8, Jan., 1860.

⁴ Hedley.—*Journ. Proc. Roy. Soc. N.S.W.*, li, p. 74, June, 19, 1918.

⁵ Brazier.—*Proc. Zool. Soc. (Lond.)*, 1869, p. 561, June, 1870.

columella sinuous, swollen posteriorly, medially sinuate, anteriorly triplicate, the median fold largest, the posterior smallest. Coloration of dead shell, bluish, banded with three broad dull brown bands, anterior and median ones indistinct, one around the shoulder dark and well marked, but interrupted by half a dozen yellow blotches. Underneath the colouring there is a series of concentric dark interrupted lines. Protoconch of two whorls, apparently smooth, succeeded by five adult whorls, the last two smooth, the others longitudinally plicate, about twelve plications being counted on the antepenultimate whorl.

Length, 18 mm.; of aperture, 15 mm.; breadth 9 mm.

Cox wrote: "Indistinctly banded about the centre with dark chestnut." Smith described it: "Light brown colour, mottled irregularly with white, exhibiting upon the body whorl three bands of a darker brown, two being near the middle and one just below the shoulder."

On account of the thin lip, Smith wrote, "evidently not adult", and this may be correct, but while in *Lyria* the outer lip is thickened, the thin young lip is straight. Reference to the forms of *Lyria* show that in the typical group the spire is lengthened, the mouth is broader anteriorly, the columella is less curved and the teeth less pronounced. The Norfolk Island shell is the type of *pattersonia* (= *nucleus*), and the Kermadec Island specimens are very similar. The Lord Howe Island shells are nearer the New Caledonian *deliciosa*, being a little narrower with a longer spire but similar coloration, and may be called *Lyria deliciosa howensis*, subsp. nov. The specimen from Mast Head Reef, recorded by Hedley as *deliciosa*, is similar in colouring, but is much larger, with a very long spire, and may be named *Lyria opposita*, sp. nov., measuring 36 mm. in length, with a spire 14 mm. long; breadth 17 mm. A rather squat specimen of *L. deliciosa* from New Caledonia measures 28 mm. long, spire 9 mm.; breadth 18 mm. In these the plications disappear on the body whorl, but in specimens from New South Wales, recorded as *pattersonia* = *nucleus*, the body whorl is strongly plicate, similar to that of the typical species, and there is not yet sufficient material to separate them, but they are quite unlike the species *Lyreneta laseroni* here described.

Since the above was written Mr. Laseron has again visited Point Halliday, and was successful in securing a much larger specimen and three smaller and broken ones, including one showing a perfect apex. The protoconch is of one and a half whorls, smooth, succeeded by the adult sculpture without any intervening varix. The early whorls are ribbed, the ribs few, low and distant. The coloration of the protoconch is pink, the succeeding whorls showing a couple of concentric colour lines of brown, on the third adult whorl the shoulder becoming clouded with brown.

The large shell measures 27 mm. in length, the apical whorls missing, with a breadth of 17 mm., the coloration being more brown than in the smaller shell.

Miss Annie Trotter, of Point Halliday, has written to Mr. Laseron that still another perfect specimen and several broken ones have been found.