

NOTES ON TWO SPECIES OF RHYTIDID SNAILS
FROM
LIZARD ISLAND, NORTH QUEENSLAND

by

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SUMMARY

The systematic position, shell, radula, anatomy and habitat preferences and behaviour of two species of rhytidid snails, *Strangesta franklandiensis* (Forbes, 1852) and *Saladelos hobsoni* (Brazier, 1876) found on Lizard Island, North Queensland are described and compared.

INTRODUCTION

During a recent visit to Lizard Island, North Queensland, the land snail fauna was surveyed, the results of which will be published elsewhere. Two species of snails belonging to the family Rhytididae, *Strangesta franklandiensis* (Forbes, 1852) and *Saladelos hobsoni* (Brazier, 1876), were found to be widespread members of that fauna and as the author is at present engaged on a taxonomic revision of the Australian species of this family, it was decided to take the opportunity to carry out detailed observations of the two species.

Unpublished taxonomic information reveals considerable confusion as to the relationships of the Australian species of this family, including these two species. Iredale (1933) erected many new genera and species for this group. He recognised the larger rhytidid on Lizard as a species described by Forbes (1852) but used it as the type species of a new genus, *Murphitella*. The smaller species was given a new specific name and put into a new genus, becoming *Saladelos lacertina* Iredale 1933. Solem (1959) considered *Saladelos* a subgenus of *Delos* Hutton, 1904 and *Murphitella* as a section of subgenus *Rhytida* s.s. Little or nothing is recorded of the anatomy, habitat preferences or behaviour of these species.

The following abbreviations are used:— AM — Australian Museum, Sydney; BM(NH) — British Museum (Natural History), London; NMV — National Museum of Victoria, Melbourne.

SYSTEMATIC SECTION

Genus **Strangesta** Iredale, 1933.

Strangesta Iredale, 1933: 48. Type species: *Helix leichardti* Cox 1864 (= *confusa* Pfeiffer 1855).

Records of The Australian Museum, 1979, Vol. 32 No. 12, 421-434, Figures 1-6.