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nest is necessary to enable her and her mate to defend it against rapacious birds. Probably the raven, the buzzard, and the kite, may be all disposed to make unfriendly visits, wherever their race has not been exterminated by pitiless gamekeepers. But it is evident that the tawny owl is a formidable enemy. The reluctance of the rook to build out of society may also be better understood, as it cannot defend its open nest against the owl at night; and also one reason why the instinct of the daw leads it always to seek the shelter of a hole, although, as Mr. Waterton remarks, it appears to be as hardy a bird as the rook. That wisdom and beneficence which never err may have given them instincts for other and more important ends than human eyes may ever be able to descry, but it is always gratifying when we think we can in part understand the utility and design of differences so striking.—*From the Transactions of the Tyneside Naturalists' Field Club*, vol. i. part 1. p. 20.

*Description of a species of Haliotis, supposed to be new.*

By C. B. ADAMS, Prof.

*Haliotis ponderosa*. *H. magna*, ovata, crassissima, convexa; striis incrementi magnis, irregularibus; rugis concentricis, irregularibus, subnodosis; spira elevata, subterminali; foraminibus quatuor, magnis; externe rubra, intus maculis plurimis rubris viridibusque iridescente.

Shell ovate, convex, ponderous, with coarse unequal incremental striæ and concentric ridges (not folds), and a few broad low tubercles on the ridges; spire elevated, subterminal; four perforations open, the inner one very large; exterior surface brick-red; inner surface elegantly iridescent with innumerable shades of delicate red, purplish red, and green.

Length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  in.; breadth  $6\frac{2}{3}$  in.; depth within  $3\frac{1}{8}$  in.

Comparison with the well-known *H. rufescens*, Swains., will render a figure unnecessary. A large specimen of Swainson's shell before me has exactly the same superficial dimensions, but is only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches deep. *H. ponderosa* is nearly or quite destitute of the spiral waves of *H. rufescens*, is of a darker red without, wants the red inner margin of the outer lip, and within has the clouds of iridescent colours remarkably small and numerous, while in *H. rufescens* they are remarkably large. It is more ponderous than any *Haliotis* which we have seen, weighing 2 lbs. 2 oz. avoirdupois.

Zoological Museum, Amherst College. Hab. — ?

Not finding this species in Reeve's very complete and excellent monograph, I have ventured to describe it as new.—*From Silliman's Journal for July 1848.*

*Cremastochilus in Ant Nests.* By S. S. HALDEMAN.

Our ant-nests are similar to those of Europe, in harbouring various insects. Among these are *Aphis*, *Coccus*, *Batrisus*, *Hister*, *Heterius*, and the singular genus of *Lamellicornia* mentioned above.



About the end of April, I found beneath a flat stone, in a cavity occupied by a large flavous species of ant, a living *Cremastochilus variolosus*, but laid no stress upon the occurrence, as I supposed it to be accidental. On the 16th of May I took three individuals of *C. Harrisii* together, under similar circumstances, and kept them alive for twelve days. On the 25th of May I found a second individual of *C. variolosus*, in an ant's nest. The locality is a southern hill-slope covered with *Castanea*, *Pinus mitis*, *Acer*, *Carya*, and *Kalmia*, the soil siliceous. The genus is extremely rare; although tolerably successful in collecting, and my residence is near the locality, these are the first living individuals I have seen. In confinement they burrow beneath the earth in which they are placed, the head, from its peculiar form, being well adapted for this purpose.

The genus *Chelifera* is also found in ant-nests, where it is probably attracted by the immature *Thysanura* which occur there; but I recently found nine individuals apparently parasitic, lodged near the extremity of the abdomen, beneath the wings and elytra of a living *Alaus oculatus*, the early stages of which are passed in ash-trees.—  
*From Silliman's Journal for July 1848.*

#### MYOCHAMA ANOMIOIDES.

*To the Editors of the Annals of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—The following notice may perhaps prove of interest to your conchological readers:—

It is generally asserted that *Myochama Anomioides* is strictly confined to *Trigonia pectinata*, but such is not the case, as I have dredged it on the following genera, *Pandora*, *Pectunculus*, *Struthiolaria*. Two specimens I dredged last January in sixty feet of water in Port Jackson, on a bottom of coarse sand and shells. The first specimen I procured was on a dead valve of a species of *Mytilus* which I sent home, since which I have dredged for days in the same spot and procured four, three of which were on dead valves of *Cleichthænus*, and one was on a round piece of sandstone.

I remain, Gentlemen, yours truly,

Fore Street, Sydney, 1st March, 1848.

F. STRANGE.

#### *On the Eyes of the Balanus.* By Dr. LEIDY.

Dr. Leidy remarked, that the existence of eyes in the perfect condition of the Cirrhopoda has been denied by all anatomists up to the present time, but its presence in the larva or imperfect stages is very generally acknowledged. Several years since, having received some living specimens of *Balanus rugosus* adhering to an oyster, he submitted them to dissection, in the course of which he noticed upon the dark purple membrane which lines the shell and muscular columns running to the opercula, on each side of the anterior middle line, a small, round, black body, surrounded by a colourless ring or space of the membrane, which, upon submitting to a low power