PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS

AND

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OF

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—
1877.

ON A NEW GENUS OF NUDIBRANCHIATA.

FAM. ELYSIADÆ.

BY THE REV. J. E. TENISON WOODS, F.G.S., F.L.S., CORR. MEM. ROY. SOC. TAS., &c.

The Elysiadæ are shelless mollusca with no distinct mantle or respiratory organ, all being performed by the ciliated surface of the body. The stomach is central; the hepatic organ branched, extending almost the whole length of the animal; eyes sessile, and tentacles simple or obsolete.

There are five known genera of the family, viz.:—ELYSIA, with tentacles; ACTÆONIA, leech-like and with tentacles; CENIA leech-like, linear dorsal tentacles; LIMAPONTIA, head truncated and with arched lateral ridges; RHODOPE, worm-like.

To this family I have found an addition of marked and peculiar generic character. This new genus I propose to dedicate to Mr. Morton Allport, as a slight mark of appreciation of his great services to science and acclimatization in Tasmania.

ALLPORTIA, Nov. GEN.

Corpus expansum, tenue, antice et postice omnino complanatum, occulis submarginatis.

ALLPORTIA EXPANSA. *n.s. Corpus supra olivaceum, pede pallidiore; occulis appoximatis punctis parvis atratis numerosis, compositis; infra lineis ramulosis albis (hepaticis?) conspicuis.*

Animal expanded thin, leaf-life, with no distinct foot, eyes anterior; body without tentacles or ridges.

ALLPORTIA EXPANSA. *n.s.* Animal of a deep olive above, smooth; eyes close together and slightly raised about one fourth of the whole length within the anterior edge. Under the lens the eyes appear to be composed of many minute dots. No other organ visible above. Foot much paler, the hepatic organs appearing as a creamy white branching plume down the median line. Length, 30; breadth, 20 millimetres. Common under stones among the rocks at Southport.

This singular mollusc moves with some rapidity like a pale gelatinous expansion of extreme tenuity. Though without shell or apparent muscles, it has such contractile power that it can move itself in any direction and raise itself nearly erect. While the highly organised testaceous mollusca can move only with difficulty, this delicate creature can recover its position at once easily, even when placed on its back. It is of such extreme tenuity, however, that on being placed in spirits it becomes opaque, and the details of its structure are lost. Type specimens are preserved for the Museum.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PHYTOGRAPHY OF TASMANIA.

BY BARON FERD. VON MUELLER, C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S.

(IV.)

The majority of the notes, offered now to the Royal Society of Tasmania, were written more than a year ago, being the result of various researches on Tasmanian plants since I had the honour of submitting the third contribution; but this offering was delayed, because it was my wish to follow up some field-work, which I instituted in Midsummer of last year, while travelling, accompanied by Mr. S. B. Emmett and his son, from Circular Head to the Arthur River, chiefly, with a view of making some special comparisons between the vegetation of North-west Tasmania and that of the opposite coast of the colony of Victoria. This wish of revisiting the island could not yet be realised; and as there seems to be much uncertainty when effect could be given by myself to such a desire for further Tasmanian phytographic explorations, I deemed it best to submit my ready notes, especially as they became disinterestedly augmented by communications of plants and memoranda from Mr. Robt. M. Johnston who, as a companion of the Hon. J. R. Scott, traversed for scientific purposes last autumn a large tract of alpine country, also not previously examined for plants. Furthermore the present contribution has been greatly enriched by notes furnished by the Rev. W. W. Spicer, who, chiefly by the aid of friends, obtained plants from several localities of Tasmania previously but little searched, and who is likely thus to advance greatly our insight into the exact geographic distribution of the species over the main island and the adjoining islets.

Some Algæ have also been added from more recent collections perseveringly formed by Mrs. Meredith, and through my mediation rendered available to Dr. Agardh of Lund, the great worker for a very long time on the oceanic plants.

MELBOURNE,
March, 1876.