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XLVI.—*Notes on some recent Mediterranean Species of Brachiopoda.* By THOMAS DAVIDSON, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

WHILE I was recently at Nice, it was suggested by our distinguished naturalist Mr. J. G. Jeffreys that I should carefully examine the original specimens of the Mediterranean species of Brachiopoda described by Antonio Risso*, in order to clear away some uncertainty still prevailing with reference to the correct identification and specific value of that author's species. Risso's knowledge of the Mollusca, both recent and fossil, was considerably inferior to his amount of information regarding

* *Histoire Naturelle des principales Productions de l'Europe Méridionale, et particulièrement de celles des Environs de Nice et des Alpes Maritimes*, vol. iv. 1826.

fishes and crustacea; consequently we must not be surprised to find so large an amount of error in the work above specified. During his lifetime few were permitted access to his collection, which at his death was found in great confusion; but since that time it has been put into good order, and is liberally shown at the Villa Risso by his nephew, Sig. J. B. Risso, consul of the Nicaraguan republic. The shells have been cleaned, remounted, and rearranged with much care by Mr. Haas, a local amateur, likewise possessor of a fine series of recent shells. From this examination I have determined that:—

Terebratula emarginata and *T. quadrata*, Risso, are synonyms of *Terebratulina caput-serpentis* (Linnaeus, sp.).

Terebratula truncata, Risso, is the *Megerlea* (*Anomia*) *truncata* of Linnaeus.

Terebratula cuneata and *T. Soldaniana*, Risso, are both referable to a single species, for which the designation of *Argiope cuneata* (Risso, sp.) must be retained. *Orthis pera* (Mühlfeldt) is another synonym.

Terebratula urna-antiqua, Risso, is undoubtedly a synonym of *Argiope decollata* (Gmelin, sp.).

Terebratula cordata, Risso. In this collection we find a specimen of *Argiope* (*Ter.*) *neapolitana* labelled as the type of Risso's *cordata*, which I am inclined to consider correct. Risso did not figure his species; and his description is insufficient. I therefore question whether we are justified in preferring the term *cordata* to the well-known one of *Argiope* (*Ter.*) *neapolitana*, Scacchi, described in 1833.

Terebratula cardita, Risso. The figured specimen is no longer in the collection; but an example of *T. cordata*, = *A. neapolitana*, is labelled *cardita*. This is, no doubt, a mistake; for the specimen does not resemble the figure, bad as are all Risso's figures. Mr. Jeffreys and myself are of opinion that the incorrect figure of *T. cardita*, upon which Risso's description was probably founded, was a specimen of *Argiope decollata*. Therefore it will be necessary to exclude the term *T. cardita* from the list of Mediterranean Brachiopoda.

Terebratula aculeata, Risso, is no longer to be found in the collection; and as no figure is appended to the otherwise imperfect description, we are left without means of ascertaining what the shell really was; and the name will require to be erased from the list of Mediterranean shells.

Thecidium mediterraneum, Risso, is a good and well-known species.

I regret to add I could make out nothing certain or useful relative to the fossil species described by our author. The collection, it is true, contains a great number of fossil Brachiopoda, which were, no doubt, obtained from the Tertiary, Cretaceous, and Jurassic rocks, which occur plentifully in the neighbourhood of Nice, Italy, &c.; but as no figures accompany his scanty descriptions, and as the labels no longer exist or else are unrecognizable, those so-termed species become valueless for scientific purposes.

During my sojourn at Nice, I endeavoured to ascertain from Sig. Andrea Aradas, Professor at the University of Catania, in Sicily, what his *Terebratula Spada* really was, since it had been insufficiently figured by him in 1847; but not having been favoured with a reply, and not having seen the shell itself, the details here given must be regarded as provisional. This shell in size and shape much resembles certain delicately ribbed varieties of the *Waldheimia flavescens*, Lamarck, = *australis*, Quoy, of which the present known habitat is South Australia. Sig. Aradas mentions having found it only upon one occasion in the Mediterranean*. Its loop is long and similar to that of the species last named; and it is worthy of notice that no species or other specimen of *Waldheimia* has hitherto been dredged from the Mediterranean by any of the many naturalists that have searched that sea, the nearest spot being Vigo Bay, where Mr. R. MacAndrew once dredged two dwarfed specimens of *Waldheimia cranium*. I have since been assured by Sig. Seguenza, of Messina, that Sig. Aradas's specimen of *W. Spada* had been carefully examined by an experienced conchologist, who had pronounced it to belong to *Waldheimia flavescens*, and who does not believe it to be a Mediterranean shell, in which assumption I completely concur.

I now hasten to recognize Prof. O. G. Costa's priority of publication with reference to his genus *Platidia*. The discovery of the shell termed *Orthis anomoioides* is due to Scacchi; but that of its internal organization and generic character seems to have been made simultaneously and quite independently by Prof. Costa and myself; and, indeed, it was only recently that, having procured a copy of that gentleman's work, 'Fauna del regno di Napoli,' I found out for the first time I had been anticipated by three months and a few days in the publication of my genus *Morrisia*, which is the same as his *Platidia*. At page 47 of the work above named, pub-

* Nel Mare di Aci-Trezza, near Sicily.

lished on the 6th of January 1852, Prof. Costa enters upon lengthened details in connexion with his genus, of which the *Orthis anomioides*, Scacchi, is stated to be the type; he also, in pl. 3 bis, gives illustrations of its internal details. In the 'Annals & Mag. of Nat. Hist.' for May 1852, will be found my description and figures of the *Morrisia anomioides*; and it is singular that none of the many conchologists and palæontologists who have adopted my genus should have been acquainted with Costa's work, or been aware of his genus and priority.
