

DESCRIPTION

OF A

NEW MOLLUSK

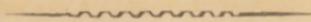
FROM

THE RED SANDSTONE, NEAR POTTSVILLE, PA.

[Read before the Academy of Natural Sciences, May 22d, 1855]

BY

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CYPRICARDIA LEIDYI. LEA.

Description of a new Mollusk from the Red Sandstone near Pottsville, Pa.

By ISAAC LEA.

A few weeks since Dr. Leidy had the kindness to place in my hands an interesting specimen, consisting of a cast of a bimusclole mollusk which that gentleman had found last summer at Tumbling Run dam, about a mile south-east of Pottsville.

The discovery of this small specimen in these Red Sandstones (Formation No. 11 of the Pennsylvania Survey, by Prof. Rogers) is of great importance, as it is believed to be the first mollusk which has been observed in these Red Sandstones, underlying the conglomerate of the coal measures of Schuylkill County, known as the southern coal field of Pennsylvania, and consequently congeneric with the *Sauropus primævus*, Lea, and *Plumites*, Rogers.*

The extreme paucity of organic life yet observed in these Red Sandstones excites the more interest, as the fact of such deficiency of types renders the position of this formation in the series a matter of doubt in the minds of some geologists.

It is hoped that by patient research other mollusks may be discovered, and that, by the palæontology of this portion of the Palæozoic rocks, its true position may be determined.

The specimen is simply a cast of the exterior of the two valves, entirely flattened out. In its facies it approaches the *Cypricardia rhombea*, Phill., (Geology of Yorkshire, pl. 5, f. 10,) from the Mountain Limestone of Northumberland

* Mr. Hall, in the New York Reports, part 4, p. 292, describes a *Cypricardia (contracta)* from the "Conglomerate and Sandstone" under the great western coal measures, near Panama, Chatauque County. It is quite oblong, and of much greater breadth and of a larger size than the species described herein.

England. It is, however, rather more quadrate, and is a much smaller shell. It has strong affinities to *Posidonia*, particularly in the striæ, and may possibly belong to that genus which seems to exist first in the Upper Silurian, and to rise to the superior portion of the Jurassic Formation. It also resembles the *Microdon bellastrata*, Con., (Hamilton Group,) described in the New York Reports, part 4, page 196, Geology, by James Hall.

As the exterior form only is visible, the diagnosis must necessarily be very curt. It may be thus characterized until better specimens shall be obtained. I name it after Dr. Leidy, who first discovered it.

Cypricardia Leidy.

(Plate IV. The lower figure is magnified ten diameters.)

Shell oblong, round before and truncate behind, very inequilateral, striate; dorsal and basal margin parallel; umbonial slope sharply carinate; anterior slope with an elevated line from the beak to the basal margin; striæ about twelve, very regular, and nearly equidistant.

Length 2-20ths, breadth nearly 4-20ths of an inch.

Observations.—This species is remarkable for its outline and striæ. The dorsal and basal margins being parallel, and the posterior margin perpendicularly truncate, the angle = 90° . The striæ cover the whole surface of the exterior, and are bent at an angle of 90° at the umbonial slope. The shell is accompanied on the specimen with some obscure impressed linear marks of a plant.