

The form of this species is very variable, but the concentric ribbing and microscopic sculpture appears to be fairly constant.

In the Proceedings of the Zoological Society, 1881, p. 490, I gave 1841 as the date of publication of d'Orbigny's *Crassatella guadaloupeensis*. This, as pointed out by Mr. Dall,¹ appears to be incorrect. At the time I did not consult the work itself but referred to Moquin-Tandon's list of authors and their works, at the end of the first volume of his *Hist. Nat. Moll. terr. et fluv. de France*. The year 1841 is there quoted for the issue of Sagra's *Histoire de Cuba*. Mr. Dall takes the first of the two species of *Gouldia* described by Professor C. B. Adams as the type of the genus. On the contrary, I think that the second species, *Gouldia parva*, should be retained as the type, for this reason, that its adoption was confirmed by Adams himself when he described another species, *Gouldia pacifica*, belonging to the same Crassatelloid group. Notwithstanding Mr. Dall's dissertation on this genus, I still maintain that *Gouldia* is unnecessary, an opinion also shared by Mr. Boog Watson.²

Mr. Dall observes that there are "abundant reasons" for separating *Gouldia* (*cerina*) from *Circe* "on conchological grounds alone." It is unfortunate that he does not point out a few of them, for, as far as I can discover from his observations, there seems to be only one difference, that of sculpture.

If difference of sculpture alone is to be held of generic importance, I think I may fairly say that the genera of Mollusca might at once be doubled or trebled in number. On that principle *Conus cancellatus*, with its strongly ridged surface, and *Conus marmorens*, which is smooth, belong to different genera, *Nassa glans* and *Nassa papillosa* are not congeneric, and so on in innumerable instances.

A few words on the variation of sculpture in the genus *Circe* may not be out of place. *Circe scripta*, the type of the genus, is a flat, concentrically ridged shell with a little radiating sculpture at the sides near the beaks. *Circe albida* is equally flat and concentrically ribbed with only the slightest trace of the lateral oblique sculpture. *Circe divaricata* is more convex, finely concentrically ridged and ornamented all over the surface with divaricate sculpture. *Circe dispar* is also convex, concentrically ridged, but with less oblique sculpture. *Circe lentiginosa* is equally swollen as the last species, concentrically ridged, but without the diverging ornamentation. *Circe castrensis* is also gibbous, more or less concentrically ridged, and is painted with angular markings as in *Circe scripta*. *Circe trimaculata* and *Circe cerina* (*Gouldia*, part, C. B. Adams), are gibbous, finely concentrically ridged throughout, but without angular markings. Many more forms might be mentioned, which would be intermediate in respect of sculpture between some of those species which I have referred to. Anyone therefore, who will place side by side *Circe scripta*, *Circe albida*, *Circe divaricata*, *Circe dispar*, *Circe lentiginosa*,

¹ *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. ix, No. 2, p. 128.

² *Journ. Conchol.*, vol. iii. p. 299.