

the *Fauna of British India*, that he had seen but two specimens, one sent him by Mr. R. M. Dixon from Bor Ghat, Bombay, and another collected by Signor Fea at Rangoon.

C. A. PAIVA.

CRUSTACEA.

A PREOCCUPIED SPECIFIC NAME IN *Macrothrix*.—In reference to a species described in his recent paper (*Rec. Ind. Mus.*, I, p. 25, June, 1907) on Indian Freshwater Entomostraca, Mr. R. Gurney writes under date June 7th, 1907, as follows: "I find that I have used in my last paper a name already used, viz. *Macrothrix tenuicornis*. Kurz used it many years ago for *M. rosea*. If possible, will you change the name of my species to *Macrothrix odiosa*." Unfortunately the letter arrived after the paper had been issued, but *Macrothrix odiosa* should stand as a correction.

MOLLUSCA.

AN ENEMY OF CERTAIN PEARL OYSTERS IN THE PERSIAN GULF.—A number of specimens of Pearl Oysters from the Persian Gulf have recently been sent to the Indian Museum for identification; they belong to the three species mentioned by Evans in the *Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinburgh* for 1892, namely, *Avicula macroptera* (local name *zanni*), *Meleagrina vulgaris* (local name *muhar*), and *M. margaritifera* (local name *sadifi*), the last representing Jamieson's var. *persica*. Nearly all the shells of *A. macroptera* and a few of those of *M. margaritifera* had been injured by the burrows of a mussel, which Mr. H. B. Preston has identified as *Lithodomus malaccanus*, Reeve. The burrows in the shells were not vertical, but nearly horizontal; they were cylindrical, rounded at the end and not much longer than the mussel. Their diameter was, however, sufficiently great to have injured the inner layers of the pearl shell in many instances and to have caused the deposit of irregular masses of dark nacre on the internal surface. The outer layer was generally more or less broken above the burrows and in such places had almost invariably been attacked by the boring sponge *Clione*. The mussel itself had in some cases been attacked by another borer, which had made comparatively large circular holes in one of its valves. *Lithodomus malaccanus* is not mentioned by Herdman among the enemies of the Ceylon Pearl Oyster, although it is known to occur in the Gulf of Manaar; it is recorded doubtfully by Melvill in his list of the shells of the Persian Gulf.

N. ANNANDALE.

THE DISTRIBUTION IN INDIA OF THE AFRICAN SNAIL *Achatina fulica*, FÉR.—It is well known that this gigantic snail, introduced from Mauritius, is common in the gardens of Calcutta and the neighbourhood. As it is said to be spreading to other parts of India, I should be very glad of specimens from any part of the country not in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta. The species is easily

recognized by its large conical shell, which measures about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length and is marked with more or less confused longitudinal chocolate stripes.

N. ANNANDALE.

POLYZOA.

STATOBLASTS FROM THE SURFACE OF A HIMALAYAN POND.—During a recent visit (in April and May) to the Simla district in the Western Himalayas I made a careful examination of the surface of all ponds, wells and streams I came across, in the hope of finding floating sponge gemmules or polyzoon statoblasts. So much dust is blown up from the plains of the Punjab into the hills that I rather expected to find these bodies on the water, even if the organisms which produce them did not occur. In almost every case but one, however, my search was fruitless, although at first sight I took for gemmules certain bodies which were probably the egg-shells of the Phyllopod Crustacean *Branchinecta orientalis*, Sars. On the horse-pond at Theog, a village situated at an altitude of 8,000 feet about seventeen miles beyond the town of Simla, I found in a scum of animal and vegetable debris numerous statoblasts agreeing in every respect with those of the typical *Plumatella emarginata*, and although I was unable to find living colonies of this animal, it is possible that they existed on certain stones near the centre of the pond that I was unable to reach. Together with the statoblasts were certain other bodies which may be those of some unknown species. Each contained two brownish capsules, which were approximately circular in outline and were enclosed in a mass of air-cells. One edge of the whole structure was straight while the other was curved. I know of no species to which they can belong. Similar bodies were also found on the surface of a small pond above the village of Phagu, at a point about five hundred feet higher than Theog and five miles nearer Simla.

N. ANNANDALE.

NOTES ON *Hislopia lacustris*, CARTER.—Through the kindness of Dr. N. Annandale, I have recently had the opportunity of comparing a specimen of *Hislopia lacustris* from Calcutta with the same species as it occurs in the United Provinces at Bulandshahr. Dr. Annandale has so fully described this Polyzoon as met with in Calcutta (*Journ. Asiat. Soc. Bengal*, vol. ii, No. 3, March 1906, and *id.*, vol. iii, No. 2, February 1907), that I shall content myself with pointing out in what respects specimens from the United Provinces of India differ from those found, some 700 miles further east, at Calcutta.

Dr. Annandale's observations were made in January and February (*i.e.*, in the "cold weather") at Calcutta, and mine were made in April and May (*i.e.*, at the beginning of the "hot weather") at Bulandshahr; but Dr. Annandale tells me that he has recently examined specimens taken in Calcutta in June and that they do not differ from those taken in February in the same tank.