

PHOLAS OBTURAMENTUM; AN UNDESCRIBED
BIVALVE FROM SYDNEY HARBOUR.

BY C. HEDLEY, F.L.S.

[Plate XIV.]

IN the course of a critical examination of various Mollusca from Port Jackson, specimens of the only *Pholas* reported thence passed under review. This species has hitherto been accepted as *P. similis* by all writers and collectors who have occupied themselves with the marine mollusca of our coast. This identification appears to have originated with G. F. Angas, who in his "List of additional Species of Marine Mollusca to be included in the Fauna of Port Jackson and the adjacent Coasts of New South Wales,"* enumerates as species 93:—

"*BARNEA SIMILIS*. *Pholas similis*, Gray, MS. Brit. Mus.; Thesaurus Conch, pl. ciii., f. 12–14; 'Bottle and Glass' rocks, in sandstone (Brazier)."

This entry is repeated verbatim by Mr. T. Whitelegge in the "List of the Marine and Freshwater Invertebrate Fauna of Port Jackson and the Neighbourhood."† Mr. Brazier informs me that this determination was also supported by the late G. B. Sowerby.

Prof. Tate records *Barnea similis*, Gray,‡ as "burrowing in clay at low tide mark, Port Lincoln, St. Vincent Gulf, and south-east coast [of South Australia]; also in Tasmania."

On examining the statement of Angas closely, our faith in his accuracy is weakened by observing that Gray's name was not, as he states, a manuscript one. It was first published with a description in 1835 in the Appendix of Yates' New Zealand, p. 309, and it again appeared, with further information, eight years later, in Vol. ii. of Dieffenbach's New Zealand, p. 254 where the author remarks that it is "very like *Pholas parvus*, but larger, broader, and more acute in front."

Between the New Zealand and the Australian species a discrepancy at once appears on comparing examples of the Port

* Proc. Zool. Soc., 1871, p. 99.

† Journ and Proc. Roy. Soc. N.S.W., xxiii. (1889), p. 234.

‡ Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Australia, ix., p. 80.