

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Waite, Edgar R., 1899. Occasional notes. I. *Stegostoma tigrinum*, Gmel. An addition to the fauna of New South Wales. *Records of the Australian Museum* 3(5): 133–134. [17 April 1899].

doi:10.3853/j.0067-1975.3.1899.1156

ISSN 0067-1975

Published by the Australian Museum, Sydney

nature culture **discover**

Australian Museum science is freely accessible online at
<http://publications.australianmuseum.net.au>
6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia



wild duck, and even on the little shepherd's companion (wagtail)." In addition to these hosts, Mr. Pound points out that "In studying the habits of various species of ticks living apart from their host under natural conditions on some of the northern rivers of this Colony [Queensland], I have noticed that in the larval stage there was a natural inclination or instinct to attach themselves to any moving object, no matter whether animate or inanimate."

The Governments of New South Wales and Queensland have, in their wisdom, delimited a boundary beyond which cattle from affected areas must not pass without inspection and treatment, and this, so far as it goes, is very right and proper. It has been urged that the cattle tick cannot thrive on hosts other than bovines; but even supposing so, the fact that living examples have, in different parts of the world, been found upon deer, sheep, dogs, and even under bark, is in itself sufficiently conclusive evidence as to a means by which "Texas Fever" may be conveyed, and that, in order to be logical and thorough, the quarantine regulations should be extended to *all* animals travelling from the affected districts. It is a recognised fact that the disease is slowly but surely spreading south—hence the necessity of extending the proscribed area; and it is only a question of time, therefore, when it will have invaded New South Wales, and who can tell where or when its devastating march will stop? Stock owners of New South Wales and Victoria would do well, therefore, to note the facts recorded by Professor Neumann.

OCCASIONAL NOTES.

I.—*STEGOSTOMA TIGRINUM*, GMEL.

AN ADDITION TO THE FAUNA OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

ON March 14th of the current year, we received from Mr. W. Hibbs an example of the shark *Stegostoma tigrinum*, Gmel.,* caught in the River Hawkesbury, New South Wales. It is a female, measures four feet in length, and in colour nearly agrees with var. 3 of Müller and Henle.† The observations were made while the shark was still alive, it having been received by us in that condition. The ground is creamy, with a greenish hue about the head and dorsal region; the markings are black spots, smaller and regularly arranged on the head, much larger and more widely spaced on the body and fins.

* Gmel.—Linn., p. 1493.

† Müller und Henle—*Plagiostomen*, p. 24.

The tuberculous ridges are extremely well-marked and are disposed as follows:—The median dorsal ridge commences between the eyes and extends along the edge of the first dorsal fin, thence recommences and similarly passes along the second dorsal; it once more re-appears and forms the keel of the tail.

On each side of this median ridge and about an inch and a half below it, runs a second ridge which loses itself behind the second dorsal fin, but faintly re-appears on the tail. Another ridge arises above the pectoral, passes along the middle line of the side, and is also traceable along the tail. A fourth ridge commences at the side of the vent and is lost beyond the anal fin. On the median ventral line immediately behind the vent, is another ridge which passes up the edge of the anal fin; lastly, a ridge leads up to each ventral.

The spots on the tail form regular longitudinal series, one row between each ridge.

The stomach was crowded with a Mollusc, which Mr. C. Hedley recognises as a *Natica*. No trace of the shell was to be seen, but in every case the operculum was present. An examination of the contents of the intestines showed that the operculum is dissolved in its passage, and not ejected from the mouth.

The *Natica* is found on muddy and sandy flats, and the shark passing over such banks must pick up the mollusc by thousands. It evidently crushes the shell, sucks out the animal, and swallows it with the operculum attached. Neither the stomach nor intestines contained any food whatever beyond this particular Gasteropod. Day remarks* :—"The favourite food of this fish is Molluscs and Crustacea."

Although not previously recorded from the Colony, this is the second example known to have been obtained here. On February 14th, 1896, we purchased from a fisherman a specimen caught off Port Jackson.

Hitherto the genus was known in Australian waters only from an example obtained by Mr. Alex. Morton, at Cape York, Queensland. This specimen is also in the Museum collection.

EDGAR R. WAITE.

II.—A SHIPWORM, NEW TO AUSTRALIA.

SOME specimens of "Cobra," received from Captain Almond, Portmaster, Brisbane, prove to be the *Kuphus manni*, Wright. This species seems not to have been noticed since 1866, when it was described from Singapore. In the same parcel of specimens, which were procured at Cooktown, were included instances of *Calobates thoracites*, Gould.

C. HEDLEY.

* Day—Fishes of India, p. 725.