

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW PROSERPINOID LAND SHELL FROM BRAZIL.

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The genus *Cyane* H. Adams, described in 1870, is said to differ from ordinary *Proserpina* by having the columella truncate and no parietal or palatal laminae. It has not been figured and I have not seen specimens, but from the characters of a shell about to be described, it may be merely, as Tryon concluded, a subordinate subdivision of *Proserpina*.

From the calcareous banks of the arroyo of the Rio Chico at Paraguassú, State of Bahia, Doctor Orville A. Derby obtained a small apparently subfossil land shell, which has been submitted to me for examination by Doctor H. von Ihering, Director of the Museu Paulista, at Sao Paulo, Brazil.

The specimen is of very much the same size and habit as *Proserpina depressa* Orbigny, from Cuba, in which the columella, if it may be so called, descends in an even curve from the parietal wall until it merges imperceptibly in the basal margin of the aperture and bears at right angles to itself a small lamella, which often lags behind so as to be but little visible from in front of the aperture. But in the case of the shell from Brazil the lamella is prominent and strong and the curve of the columella is taken up by it parallel to the base of the aperture and so near the basal margin that only a narrow notch exists between them, giving the effect of an oblique truncation of the pillar. This leads to the surmise, in the absence of a figure or

full diagnosis of *Cyane*, that the chief character upon which Adams based his genus may have been of a like nature, in which case it could hardly be accounted of generic value.

From *Cyane*, however, the present species differs in preserving a parietal lamella; and, as Bland, Pfeiffer and others have considered differences of the arrangement and number of the lamellæ of the aperture as sufficient characters for subdivisions of the genus, the Brazilian shell might be regarded as constituting the type of a section or subdivision with those characters, which might be called *Staffola*.

***Proserpina (Staffola) derbyi* sp. nov.**

Shell small, depressed, pale yellowish, when fresh probably polished, with an axial sculpture of fine, non-punctate, sharply incised striæ nearly parallel to the incremental lines, but visible only under considerable magnification; spire depressed, domelike, the sutures obscure, the protoconch large, followed by five whorls; base flattish, imperforate, not excavated in the center; aperture semilunar, outer lip thin, sharp, advancing slightly from the suture and slightly excavated just before it joins the pillar; parietal wall with a single lamella about one-third of the way from the pillar to the suture; periphery of the shell inflatedly rounded; the armature of the pillar has been already described; height of shell, 2.5; max. diam., 5.0; min. diam., 4.0 mm.

The shell is in such a condition that it might be either a Pleistocene fossil or a "dead" shell washed from a higher level and stranded by falling water in the creek.

The Proserpinidæ have hitherto been known only from the Antilles, Mexico, middle America and the shores adjacent to the Caribbean, except in the case of *Cyane blandiana* Adams, which was described from Eastern Peru. The presence of a species in the State of Bahia is therefore a very interesting addition to the knowledge of the geographical distribution of members of this group. Even if fossil, it carries the range 1,000 miles to the south and east, and adds weight to the connection which has been already insisted on between the Antillean fauna and that of the Eastern portion of South America south of the Amazonas.