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DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE, IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO.

On a Univalve called *Cochlioconus gradatus* Yokoyama

By

Matajiro YOKOYAMA, *Rigakuhakushi*

With 1 Text figure

Some three years ago when I was studying the Neogene shells brought from Hyuga, I came across a univalve which I could not bring under any genus then known to me. It resembled *Conus* in many respects, although differing from it in having a step-like spire consisting of angular whorls. I had then a faint recollection of having seen a figure of a shell looking like it somewhere. Accordingly I started a search for it in several works relating to conchology and, indeed, among *Conidae*, firmly believing that it must be among this family. However, finding that all my effort was in vain, I was obliged to treat the shell in question as a new form, not only specifically but also generically, and the name then chosen was *Cochlioconus gradatus*. Subsequently Mr. H. A. Pilsbry of Philadelphia who at present is the greatest authority on our living molluscan shells on seeing my paper¹⁾ on the above said Hyuga fossils kindly wrote to me that my new shell is probably to be brought under *Thatcheria*, a genus founded by G. F. Angas in 1877 on a specimen of a shell fished near Japan and described in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London of that year under the name of *Thatcheria mirabilis*. I immediately looked into the above work and was agreeably surprised to find a figure closely resembling the one which I thought I had seen before. And that one, as I now know, is a copy after Angas given in Tryon's Manual of Conchology, a work in which I had

1) Pliocene Shells from Hyuga. Jour. Fac. Sci., Imp. Univ. Tokyo, Sect. II, Vol. II, Part 7, Sept., 1928.

already looked for it. The reason why I did not find it is simply because it was among *Fusidae* and not among *Conidae*. This classification which seems to me not quite natural has already been proposed by Angas whom Tryon simply followed, not having seen the shell himself. I think I am right in placing it near *Conus*. This opinion seems to be also shared by Mr. Pilsbry as is evident from his communication. I must here state that Angas' species seems to be extremely rare, for I have never seen it in my life, nor has Mr. Pilsbry. A single specimen which Angas had obtained may be the only one now existing in the whole world. He describes it as follows:

"Shell angularly pyriform, solid, yellowish white; spire elevated, and acuminate towards the apex; whorls eight, flattened and slightly excavated above, strongly and prominently keeled at the periphery, and sloping inwards below, above the keels finely, arcuately striate, below irregularly more or less crenately concentrically ridged; aperture irregularly subquadrate, pure white and shining within; columella smooth, slightly arcuate above, nearly straight below, white; outer lip with a broad excavated sinus extending from its juncture with the body-whorl to the extremity of the last keel; below the keel, which is very prominent, the lip is simple and arcuate.



"Altitude three inches six lines. Diameter two inches. Length of aperture two inches two lines. Habitat: Seas of Japan.

Thatcheria mirabilis Angas
(After Tryon)

"This very remarkable shell, quite unlike anything hitherto met with, was recently brought from Japan by Mr. Charles Thatcher. The specimen is believed to be unique. Without a knowledge of the operculum its exact generic position can not be determined, but at present I regard it as belonging to the subfamily of *Fusinae*."

So far Angas. The *Conus*-like appearance is somewhat more pronounced in our fossil than in Angas' species. Anyhow the former may be looked upon as a direct ancestor of the latter. As to the denomination, the fossil should henceforth be called *Thatcheria gradata* (Yokoyama).

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