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Type Shells from the May Collection in the South Australian Museum

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In 1929, the South Australian Museum acquired ¹ several thousand shells collected by the prominent Tasmanian conchologist, W.L. May. Amongst these were some 1000 mounted and fully labelled Tasmanian shells which provided the basis for May's (1921) **Checklist of the Mollusca of Tasmania** and his invaluable (1923) **Illustrated Index of Tasmanian Shells** (see May 1923). Included are 150 Tasmanian specimens labelled in May's handwriting as "Cotypes". In this paper we list these *Type* specimens as an aid to future research (c.f. Turner and Dartnall 1971) and to re-emphasize their collector who in his time was a leading member of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club.

(A) W.L. May

William Lewis May was born in South Australia in 1861. With Ralph Tate, Professor of Geology at Adelaide University, he studied the types and reputed types of molluscs held in the Tasmanian Museum with a view to bringing "these insufficiently known Tasmanian species into an alignment with better known species inhabiting other parts of the Australian coast" (Tate & May 1901: p. 345). In his lifetime, May overturned this position: at the time of publication, his "Illustrated Index" was the only illustrated complete account of the molluscs of any Australian State.

Tate and May's (1901) "Revised Census of the Marine Molluscs of Tasmania" was the second such checklist for this State, extending the list made by the Rev. J.E. Tenison-Woods in 1878 and incorporating subsequent studies by H.D. Atkinson, C.E. Beddome, C. Hedley, W. Legrand, M. Lodder and W.F. Petterd. May's personal copy of the "Revised Census", held in the S.A. Museum Library, contains obituary

¹purchased by Sir Joseph C. Verco, honorary Curator of Molluscs at the South Australian Museum (1914-1933) and presented by him to the Museum.

notices of his fellow collectors. This copy is extensively annotated, showing the rapid progress made in Tasmanian conchology after 1901 - a subject in which May became the esteemed and sole arbitrator for the next quarter century (Iredale 1925). An excellent draftsman, May illustrated most of his publications with original drawings, including the 1923 'handbook'. Some of these pen and ink and watercolour sketches of new species are preserved along with tracings of shells in his "Revised Census" copy.

May's shell collecting was principally made along the East Coast, Frederick Henry Bay, the Tasman Peninsula, the Derwent Estuary and D'Entrecasteaux Channel, Maria Is. and Freycinet Peninsula, but also extending during the last decades of his life to the North-West Coast and Bass Strait. Much was done in conjunction with the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club, particularly on those occasions when the Club chartered a small steamer to take members to the traditional Easter "camp out" (e.g. May 1911). May used these steamers to augment the deep sea shell dredgings carried out by himself and Hedley in 1907 off Cape Pillar. The 1907 effort, several hours work on the 17th and 18th of December, yielded some 90 new records of shells for Tasmania, including some 45 new species! (Hedley & May 1908; May 1911, 1916, 1919).

May died on August 30th 1925.

The number of valid species remaining under May's name testify to his acumen and revised checklists of both freshwater and marine molluscs (May 1921a, 1921b) remain 'foundations' in taxonomic research some 50 years later. Species such as *Ischnochiton (Ovatoplax) mayi* Pilsbury 1895, *Orbitestella mayi* Tate 1899, *Eulimaustra mayi* Tate 1900, *Myrtea mayi* Gatliff & Gabriel 1911, *Acutoplax mayi* Torr 1913, *Tectisumen mayi* Finlay 1926 and *Glycymeris mayi* Cotton 1947, record the high regard of other malacologists for May and perpetuate his contribution to Tasmania's natural history.

(B) May's Cotypes

The "Cotypes" held by the South Australian Museum are most likely *Paratypes*, i.e. specimens upon which the original published description of a species was based but from which a *Holotype* was selected by the author. Some may be *Syntypes*, if no *Holotype* was designated. In either case, the specimens are of considerable scientific value at the present time when museums and other repositories of *Type* material are loath to permit outside lending of *Holotype* specimens.

No attempt has been made to update the synonymies as this would be beyond the scope of this paper. These may be found by reference to Cotton (1959, 1961, 1964), Macpherson and Gabriel (1962) or the Tasmanian Museum. Numbers in parentheses after each refer to May's (1921) Checklist: D registration numbers refer to the South Australian Museum Register of Mollusca. Mollusc families follow Cotton (*ibid*). A bibliography of works, known to us, by or about W.L. May is appended.

CREPIPODA

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Callochitonidae: | <i>Callochiton elongatus</i> May 1920 (230) D12696. |
| Ischnochitonidae: | <i>Ischnochiton atkinsoni</i> Iredale & May 1916 (233) D15678. |

- Lepidopleuridae: * *Ischnochiton iredalei* Dupuis 1918 (236) D12718.
Lepidopleurus columnarius Hedley & May 1908 (226) D15679.
- PELECYPODA**
- Condylocardiidae: *Condylocardia compressa* Hedley & May 1908 (111) D15612.
- Crassatellidae: *Cuna delta* Tate & May 1900 (98) D15611.
Cuna hamata Hedley & May 1908 (99) D15606.
- Leptonidae: *Legrandia bernardi* Tate & May 1901 (148) D15608.
Myllita polita May 1924 (not listed) D15614.
- Philobryidae: *Philobrya subpurpurea* May 1924 (not listed) D15613.
- Sphaeriidae: *Pisidium tasmanicum* Tenison-Woods 1876 (152) D15616.
- Thraciidae: *Pholadomya tasmanica* Hedley & May 1914 (74) D15615.
Thraciopsis elongata May 1916 (73) D15610.
- Verticordiidae: *Verticordia tasmanica* May 1916 (85) D15605.
- GASTROPODA**
- Acmaeidae: *Asteracmea illibrata* var. *mellila* Iredale 1924 D15707.
- Ancylidae: *Ancylus mariae* Petterd 1902 (887) D15801.
Ancylus tasmanicus Tenison-Woods 1876 (888) D15827.
- Capulidae: *Capulus devexus* May 1916 (519) D15776.
- Cerithiopsidae: *Cerithiopsis apicostata* May 1920 (531) D15777.
Cerithiopsis mamilla May 1920 (534) D15778.
Cerithiopsis trisculpta May 1913 (536) D15779.
- Cocculinidae: *Cocculinella tasmanica* May 1920 (387) D15728.
- Cymatiidae: *Eugyrina petulans* Hedley & May 1908 (601) D15785.
Personella columnaria Hedley & May 1908 (604) D15786.
- Fascioliariidae: *Fusus schoutanicus* May 1911 (800) D15830.
- Liotiidae: *Brookula consobrina* May 1924 D15727.
Cirsonella translucida May 1916 (353) D15732.
Crossea consobrina May 1916 (569) D15680.
Liotella petalifera Hedley & May 1908 (371) D15725.
Liotina densilineata Tate 1899 (376) D15722.
Lissotesta porcellana Tate & May 1900 (362) D15723.
Rissoa pertranslucida May 1913 (362) D15726.
- Littorinidae: *Melaraphe praetermissa* May 1909 (405) D15729.
Risellopsis mutabilis May 1909 (409) D15735.
- Lymnaeidae: *Amphipeplea huonensis* Tenison-Woods 1876 (875) D15686.
Limnaea gunnii Petterd 1889 (876) D15684.

* Type status uncertain.

- Limnaea subaquatilis* var. *neglecta* Petterd 1889 (877) D15687.
- Limnaea lutosa* Petterd 1889 (877) D15685.
- Marginellidae: *Marginella altilabra* May 1911 (647) D15789.
- Marginella auriculata* May 1916 (693) D15811.
- Marginella caduocincta* May 1916 (650) D15794.
- Marginella columnaria* Hedley & May 1908 (651) D15798.
- Marginella concamerata* May 1918 (652) D15790.
- Marginella connectans* May 1911 (653) D15795.
- Marginella consobrina* May 1911 (654) D15792.
- Marginella cratericula* Tate & May 1900 (655) D15800.
- Marginella dentiens* May 1911 (658) D15791 & D15796.
- Marginella diplostreptus* May 1916 (659) D15797.
- Marginella gabrieli* May 1911 (663) D15805.
- Marginella georgiana* May 1915 (666) D15803.
- Marginella hedleyi* May 1911 (667) D15799.
- Marginella inaequidens* May 1913 (668) D15804.
- Marginella incerta* May 1920 (669) D15806.
- Marginella indiscreta* May 1911 (671) D15813.
- Marginella lodderae* May 1911 (675) D15814.
- Marginella maugiana* Hedley 1915 (677) D15815.
- Marginella microscopica* May 1911 (656) D15793.
- Marginella multidentata* May 1920 (680) D15802.
- Marginella obesula* May 1920 (683) D15809.
- Marginella praetermissa* May 1916 (685) D15808.
- Marginella procella* May 1916 (672) D15810.
- Marginella ringens* May 1913 (687) D15807.
- Marginella schoutanica* May 1913 (688) D15811.
- Marginella vercoi* May 1911 (696) D15816.
- Melanellidae: *Eulima columnaria* May 1916 (979) D15842.
- (Eulimidae) *Eulima cunaeformis* May 1916 (980) D15845.
- Eulima expansilabra* May 1911 (986) D15877.
- Eulima schoutanica* May 1916 (988) D15846.
- Mitridae: *Microvoluta purpureostoma* Hedley & May 1908 (790) D15824.
- Mitra pumilo* May 1916 (783) D15825.
- Muricidae: *Trophon columnarius* Hedley & May 1908 (841) D15838.
- Trophon molorthus* Hedley & May 1908 (846) D15839.
- Trophon sarmentosus* Hedley & May 1908 (850) D15837 & D15854.
- Nassariidae: *Nassarius mobilis* Hedley & May 1908 (804) D15831 & D15832.
- Naticidae: *Natica elkingtoni* Hedley & May 1908 (611) D15788.
- Natica schoutanica* May 1913 (613) D15787 & D15867.
- Omalogyridae: *Orbitestella iredalei* May 1920 (382) D15724.
- (Orbitestellidae)
- Paludestrinidae: *Petterdiana launcestonis* var. *minima* Petterd 1889 (507) D15774.
- (Hydrobiidae) *Petterdiana launcestonis* var. *tumida* Petterd 1889 (507) D15775.

- Potamopyrgus brownii* Petterd 1889 (496) D15767.
Potamopyrgus dunrobinensis Tension-Woods 1876 (499) D15769.
Potamopyrgus elongatus May 1921 (498) D15770.
Potamopyrgus legrandi Tenison-Woods 1876 (501) D15768.
Potamopyrgus marginata Petterd 1889 (500) D15772.
Potamopyrgus pontvillensis Tenison-Woods 1876 (499) D15771.
Potamopyrgus tasmanica Tenison-Woods 1876 (501) D15773.
- Philinidae: *Philine columnaria* Hedley & May 1908 (1028) D15847.
- Pyramidellidae: *Cingulina insignis* May 1911 (950) D15892.
Odostomia occultidens May 1916 (965) D15841.
Odostomia nuprasculpta Tenison-Woods 1877 (968) D15765.
Pseudorissoina capiticava Hedley & May 1908 (997) D15849.
Syrnola harrissoni Tate & May 1900 (956) D15840.
Turbonilla tiara May 1911 (976) D15844.
- Pyrenidae: *Aesopus solidus* May 1911 (826) D15833.
Retizafra multicosata May 1911 (834) D15836.
Zafra columnaria May 1916 (829) D15835.
- Rissoidae: *Amphithalamus triangulus* May 1916 (469) D15747.
Dardanula aurantiocincta May 1916 (435) D15739.
Dardanula erratica May 1913 (437) D15737.
Epigrus semicinctus May 1916 (465) D15759.
Estea columnaria Hedley & May 1908 (442) D15754.
Estea flindersi Tenison-Woods 1876 (443) D15755.
Estea labrotoma May 1920 (449) D15756.
Estea microcosta May 1920 (450) D15757.
Estea perpolita May 1920 (453) D15750.
Estea pertumida May 1916 (454) D15749.
Estea puer May 1921 (455) D15760.
Estea rubicundra Tate & May 1900 (456) D15753.
Estea tiara May 1916 (458) D15748.
Haurakia supracostata May 1920 (414) D15740.
Lironoba archensis May 1913 (417) D15741.
Lironoba freycineti May 1916 (418) D15742.
Lironoba schoutanica May 1913 (421) D15743.
Merelina sculptis May 1919 (431) D15736.
Merelina seminodosa May 1916 (432) D15745.
Merelina suprasculpta May 1916 (433) D15744.
Merelina thouinensis May 1916 (434) D15746.
Notosetia pellucida Tate & May 1900 (471) D15746.
Notosetia purpureostoma May 1920 (472) D15751.
Notosetia simillima May 1916 (473) D15752.
Rissopsis buliminoides Tate & May 1900 (483) D15762.

- Rissoopsis columnarius* May 1911 (484) D15766.
Rissoopsis consobrina Tate & May 1900 (485) D15763.
- Rissoinidal: *Rissoina fausta* Hedley & May 1908 (479) D15758.
Rissoina lintea Hedley & May 1908 (478) D15761.
- Scissurellidae: *Scissurella ornata* May 1909 (273) D15851.
- Styliferidae: *Eulima munita* Hedley 1903 (986) D15843.
- Trichotropidae: *Lippistes consobrina* May 1920 (571) D15781.
Lippistes torcularis Tenison-Woods 1878 (573) D15782.
- Truncatellidae: *Coxiella badgerensis* Johnston 1879 (513) D15850.
- Trochidae: *Basilissa niceterium* Hedley & May 1908 (339) D15733.
Calliostoma columnaria Hedley & May 1908 (331) D15697 & D15733.
Calliotrochus galbina Hedley & May 1908 (322) D15370.
Calliotrochus hisseyana Tenison-Woods 1876 (323) D15731.
Euchellus profundior May 1916 (342) D15734.
- Turridae: *Apaturris costifera* May 1920 (719) D15818.
Epideira tasmanica May 1911 (714) D15817.
Gatliffena fenestrata Tate & May 1900 (?) D15855.
Guraleus schoutenensis May 1911 (729) D15820.
Leucosyrinx esperanza May 1911 (715) D15819.
Mangelia pagoda May 1911 (766) D15826.
Nepotilla aculeata May 1916 (751) D15822.
Nepotilla microscopica May 1916 (758) D15823.
Pseudodaphnella nodorete May 1916 (746) D15821.
- Turritellidae: *Glyptozaria columnaria* Cotton & Wood 1935.
(Holotype: specimen collected by Hedley & May 1908) D11438.
Turritella microscopica May 1911 (560) D15780.
- Vermetidae: *Magilina caperata* Tate & May 1900 (583) D15784.
Strophopoma nucleocostata May 1916 (580) D15783.

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- Siphodontaliidae: *Cadulus spretus* Tate & May 1900 (1048) D15848.

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Addendum

PELECYPODA

Propehyridellidae

Rugoshyria depressa sodalis Iredale 1934
(May's 156 redescribed) D15988

GASTROPODA

Charopidae

Endodonta hookeriana Petterd 1879 (911) D15977

Liotiidae

Zalapais Lissa Suter 1908 (365) D15984

Marginellidae

Marginella gatliffi May 1911 (664) D15987