

The dry seasons are apparently spent under cover where the soil is kept moist, or they burrow into the ground.

Dr. Dexter's paper was illustrated by color slides picturing various ponds during several seasons. He gave a list of species found with degree of abundance (page 12) and explained that taking the mollusks was incidental to his real purpose, that of collecting Fairy Shrimp. Dr. Pilsbry asked if any observations were made as to the length of time the mollusks lived after the pool dried up, having found that adult snails tend to bury themselves in mud and come up when it rains. Dr. Dexter replied that he visits some ponds each month the year round, making it a practice to visit them all in the month of March. Some dry up for 4 months each summer, but how deep the mollusks go he was unable to say; they always are on hand the following spring. Dr. Van Cleave said that repopulation of pools has been thoroughly studied and reported on.

SHELLS AND MASTODON. -- BY GORDON K. MacMILLAN. (Reprinted from American Malacological Union News Bulletin and Annual Report, 1948, p. 18.)

The first report of the discovery of the remains of a Mastodon in this country occurred in 1705 at Claverack, Columbia County, New York, was contained in a letter received by Cotton Mather from Gov. Joseph Dudley and an item published in the Boston News Letter on July 30, 1705. Since that time remains of this Proboscidean have been discovered in nearly every state of the Union, and in many cases associated with land and fresh water mollusca. In the early part of February, 1948, there was unearthed a few bones of a Mastodon during the process of the removal of a seam of coal by the strip mining method in Bridgeville, a small community about 10 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Associated with these remains in a grayish clay some 5-10 feet above the coal were 14 species of land and fresh water mollusca. This is the first occurrence in Pennsylvania of the association of a Mastodon with shells. Since this clay, in which the bones of this animal reposed, indicates deposition in a pond or lake, the freshwater forms predominate. The four species of land snails occurring in the balsam forest surrounding the lake indicates that the climate around Bridgeville was not only cold but also damp. The presence of these snails and the balsam trees indicates also that the climate was cooler than at present, not arctic, but more of a cold temperate one. The species of mollusca associated with the Mastodon at Bridgeville are *Valvata tricarinata* (Say), *Helisoma anceps* (Menke), *Helisoma anceps striatum* (FCB), *Gyraulus deflectus* (Say), *Amnicola limosa* (Say), *Ferrissia rivularis* (Say), *Ferrissia* sp.?, *Lasmigona viridis* (Raf.)?, *Sphaerium simile* (Say), *Sphaerium simile planatum* Sterki, *Discus cronkhitei* (Newc.), *Discus patulus* (Desh.), *Gastrocopta armifera* near variety *similis*, and *Pomatiopsis lapidaria* (Say).

(ACCOUNT OF THE 1948 FIELD TRIP). -- BY GORDON K. MacMILLAN. (Reprinted from American Malacological Union News Bulletin and Annual Report, 1948, p. 19.)

The field trip scheduled for Ohiopyle, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, for August 27th was cancelled because there were not enough autos for transportation. Instead, a collecting trip was made to Sandy Creek Valley, formed by Sandy Creek running in a northwesterly direction from the small village of Sandy Creek to empty into the Allegheny River nine-tenths of a mile away. This village lies about 6 miles in a northeasterly direction from Pittsburgh.

J. P. E. Morrison and Dr. E. L. Palmer furnished their cars for transportation, taking with them Frank L. Jeffries, E. Sidney Marks, Mrs. Margaret Teare, Mrs. Margaret Teskey, Gertrude M. Weber, James M. Ross, Eugene H. Schmeck, Dorothea Franzen, Mrs. E. L. Palmer and Gordon K. MacMillan.

The party left the entrance to the Carnegie Museum about 10 o'clock in the morning. Collecting during that part of the day was made along the northeastern flats and hillsides of Sandy Creek just below the village of Sandy Creek. That area was not too overgrown with hardwoods and shrubs, mostly second and third growths. In the more open spaces were many herbs, flowers, and weeds. Lunch was eaten at Futules Cafe in Verona, a borough along the Allegheny River about a mile and a half north of the entrance of Sandy Creek into the Allegheny River. After lunch collecting was continued on a rather steep hillside covered with moderate growths of trees and shrubs. This locality was situated on the southwestern side of Sandy Creek Valley. This place constituted a significant collecting locality as quite a number of specimens of *Hendersonia occulta* (Say) were found here. This species has a very sporadic distribution throughout the northeastern section of the United States, and this find at Sandy Creek constitutes the fourth locality record for Allegheny County since Jacob Green reported it first in 1832 at *Helicina rubella*. In the morning, among the loose rocks and stones on the flats of Sandy Creek were gathered specimens of *Oxychilus draparnaudi* (Beck). Most of the other species of larger and commoner forms found throughout the northeastern section of the United States were collected here by the party.

Since the area around Sandy Creek is within the industrial region of Pittsburgh, the members of the collecting party became quite dirty by the end of the days activities from contact with the snow and sooty underbrush, leaves and logs. The heat of the day, the thermometer standing at 88 degrees, was another factor contributing towards this condition. In spite of the dirt and heat, I believe that this collecting trip was very successful, as attested by the large number of specimens collected by all participating in this event.

THE OCCURRENCE OF *HENDERSONIA OCCULTA* (Say) IN PENNSYLVANIA. -- BY GORDON K. MacMILLAN. (Reprinted from American Malacological Union News Bulletin and Annual Report, 1949, pp. 4-5).

During his sojourn in New Harmony, Indiana, Thomas Say discovered a new species of land snail in the ragged and abrupt "bluffs" along the Wabash River one half mile below the town. This shell he described in 1831 as *Helicina occulta*. One year later, Jacob Green, at that time the first Professor of Chemistry in Jefferson Medical College at Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, found the first living specimens of *Hendersonia occulta* in the rambling hills of Crafton not far from the mouth of Chartiers Creek. Jacob Green called his species *Helicina rubella*. At present *Hendersonia occulta* occurs at only eight localities in southwestern Pennsylvania in Allegheny, Greene, and Washington Counties. This species prefers a limestone region as made by my observations and attested by those of Prof. B. Shimek, Dr. H. B. Baker, Dr. J. P. E. Morrison, and Dr. H. A. Pilsbry. As also with the observations made by Prof. Shimek, *Hendersonia occulta* is closely associated with some stream. All of the localities in southwestern Pennsylvania fall within the drainage systems of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers, and occur along these rivers or some tributaries of them.