

two feet and a half in length. It has a pouched throat with a cross fold. All the scales of the body are keeled, and it has a low crest of triangular scales on the neck.\*

In all parts of the Fijis which I visited, I met with abundance of a land-inhabiting Hermit Crab of the genus *Cænobita*, allied to the well-known crab *Birgus latro* of the Philippines and elsewhere, which feeds on cocoanuts. *Birgus latro* is apparently a Hermit Crab, which has given up using a shell to protect itself, because it has grown too large to be contained by any shell. It has therefore developed, as a substitute, a hardened covering to the hinder part of its body, which was, no doubt, soft, as in other Hermit Crabs, when it wore a shell. The Hermit Crabs of the genus *Cænobita* are smaller, and always wear shells like their marine congeners.

On one small coral island, off the mouth of the Wai Levu, the beds of the littoral *Convolvulus* (*Ipomœa*) were swarming with these air-breathing Hermit Crabs, carrying about with them all kinds of shells in the hot sunshine. In Kandavu they climb the hills and go far inland, bearing their shells with them, as do the terrestrial *Paguride* in St. Thomas and other West Indian islands.

On the shores of Wokan Island, in the Aru group, a small species of *Cænobita* was extremely abundant on the stones and about the dry rocks above tide-mark. When alarmed the animals withdraw their claws and heads suddenly into their shells, and drop off their support as if feigning death. In one place at Aru I came upon such numbers of them, that their shells made quite a distinct slight rattling noise, as a drove of them let go their hold in alarm, and their shells fell amongst the stones.

But what has impressed most deeply upon my memory the fact of the existence of these terrestrial Hermit Crabs, was a surprise which I encountered at the Admiralty Islands. When collecting plants there, I thought I saw a fine large Land Snail resting on one of the topmost twigs of a bush about four feet in height. I grasped the specimen, but instead of feeling the slimy snail's body, I got a very unpleasant bite from a large Hermit Crab, and I then saw that the shell was a marine one (*Turbo*).

The genus *Cænobita* has one of its nippers especially stout and powerful. In the Admiralty Islands a species gnaws the roots of one of the littoral trees (*Ehrocarpus ovaliformis*). I have seen 20 or 30 of these crabs gnawing at one long wound made by them in a root, apparently feeding on an exuding gum.

\* For a description of this lizard, by Dr. Günther, see "Proc. Zool. Soc. 1869," p. 189, Pl. XXV.