

Furthermore the attempt has been made to render the descriptions as easy of reference as possible, by arranging each in a series of uniform paragraphs and taking up the organs in a definite order.

Dimensions have been given in the case of new species, although, except as indicating general proportions, I do not attach much value to them, owing to the great contractility of the animals when alive, and to the irregular manner in which they sometimes seem to be affected by reagents.

It may be a matter of astonishment to some that no stress has been laid upon the radula in the comparison of different species. When the examination of the present collection was first commenced, drawings were made of this organ, and it was intended to publish and use them for diagnostic purposes, but it became evident in a short time that without a much more extended investigation than was possible under the circumstances no results of value could be hoped for. It appears that in almost every radula each row of teeth differs a little from the one preceding it, and very frequently five, six, or even more rows must be examined before a given form repeats itself; two rows of teeth from the same specimen will often differ as much as two from different species. From this it was evident that the majority of the figures hitherto published were valueless for comparative purposes, inasmuch as they show only one row of teeth, and it appeared wiser to defer the consideration of this particular organ, in the hope of making a thorough examination of the whole matter with larger material at some future date.