

Gray (1850),<sup>1</sup> Gould (1852),<sup>2</sup> and Boas (1886)<sup>3</sup> have tried to simplify the matter by uniting all the known species in a single genus with the oldest title, *Limacina*, Cuvier. But it must be noted that Gould knew but few species of Limacinidæ, and that for one form which he regarded as new he even thought that it might be well to create a new genus. Jeffreys<sup>4</sup> also unites in a single genus, *Limacina*, all the species which he discusses except *Atlanta inflata*, d'Orbigny, for which he establishes a genus *Embolus*, although a certain species which he calls *Limacina* differs more from the typical *Limacina* than does *Atlanta inflata*. And besides, as we shall afterwards see, that solution of the difficulty which seeks to unite in a single genus all the living Limacinidæ is not in conformity with the differences of organisation exhibited by the various types.

There is only one way of restoring order to the confused nomenclature, and that is to find for each generic title the connotation given to it by its inventor, and the type to which it was originally applied. In this way alone can one recognise with any certainty what are the synonymous titles, and eliminate the more recent tautologies.

Let us then see what titles ought to be expelled from the nomenclature.

I. It is necessary first of all to abstract the genus *Agadina*, Gould, which, as we shall immediately see, has been too inadequately and imperfectly diagnosed to admit of any accurate conception being framed in regard to the organisms to which it ought to be applied.

II. The genus *Spiratella* was founded in 1824 by de Blainville for *Clio helicina*, Phipps. But for the same species the genus *Limacina* was erected by Cuvier in 1817. The name *Spiratella* need not therefore be retained.

III. The genera *Heliconoides*, d'Orbigny (1836), *Spirialis*, Eydoux and Souleyet (1840), and *Helicophora*, Gray (1842), are all based upon the same series of small forms, but without reference to any particular type. This series includes among its species three forms of shell, and to this it is due that the above titles have been used with different connotations by different authors (the brothers Adams, Bronn, Carus, Fol, Sars, &c.).

These forms of shell are—(1) a more or less elevated spiral with a simple lip; (2) a depressed spiral with a rostrated lip; and (3) with a very large aperture and a columella prolonged into the rostrum; and they have all received different names. The adoption of these new names evidently involves the abandonment of the titles noted above in the original sense of their authors. The new names corresponding to the three forms of shell are as follows:—

<sup>1</sup> Catalogue of the Mollusca in the Collection of the British Museum, pt. ii., Pteropoda.

<sup>2</sup> The Mollusca and Shells of the U.S. Exploring Expedition.

<sup>3</sup> *Spolia atlantica*.

<sup>4</sup> New and peculiar Mollusca, &c., procured in the "Valorous" Expedition, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. xix. p. 337.