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## MOLLUSKS OF THOMPSON'S LAKE, ILLINOIS.

BY W. S. STRODE, M. D., BERNADOTTE, ILL.

The beautiful *Anodonta suborbiculata* of Say has a sparse distri-  
bution and is rarely found in considerable numbers.

I know of but one locality in Illinois where it is to be found in  
abundance. This place is a still beautiful lake, five miles long by  
one in breadth, with an average depth of from five to eight feet; the  
bottom a mixture of black mud and sand; the shores and a hundred  
acres or so at each end covered with a growth of pond Lilies.

For a half century this lake has been a great fishing resort.  
With seines five hundred yards long, trammel and funnel nets,  
hook and line, spears, etc., immense quantities of fish are annually  
taken from its waters; great Buffalo, Cat-fish, Shovel-fish, Jack-  
salmon and a half dozen kinds of Sunfish, Bass, Pike and Pickerel.

State Geologist Worthen (deceased) seems to have been the only  
naturalist who discovered the conchological richness of the lake,  
and he kept the discovery to himself, collecting large quantities of  
the *Ano. suborbiculata* Say and *corpulenta* Cpr. and sending them  
to collectors and museums all over the world.

In the summer of 1890 I made a careful search for the *Unionidæ*  
and found it containing but four species: *Unio anodontoides* Lea,  
and *parvus* Bar., and *Ano. suborbiculata* Say, and *corpulenta* Cpr.

But the abundance of the two *Anodontas* make up for the lack  
of species. In some places the bottom of the lake seemed to be lit-  
erally paved with the *suborbiculata*. With a six-tined potato-dig-

ger I would sometimes bring up five or six at a haul; and if the fishermen happened to be making a draw with the great seine, a half barrel of them would sometimes be drawn out at once,—many of them great beautiful adult shells nearly as large as a common dinner plate, the epidermis all intact, the stillness of the water and freedom from acid causing but little erosion. The younger shells in their beautiful iridescence, seem to have caught the tints reflected from the green woods, the blue sky and sparkling stars.

The other *Anodonta*, the *corpulenta* was not so plentiful in the deeper water that the *suborbiculata* seemed to prefer, but nearer the shores in shallow water, more or less shaded by the broad leaves of the water lily, many of them could be found. The umbones of this mussel, as found in this lake, more nearly approach perfection than in any other species.

Associated with this mollusk, among the water lilies, were great numbers of *Vivipara contectoides* Binney and *intertexta* Say and also more or less of the *Physa heterostropha* Say.

In collecting and handling these fragile shells much care must be taken as they break as easily as egg shells. When removed from the water I would pile them up in one end of the boat, and cover them up from the sun with a wet blanket. When transferred to my buggy (for I had to drive twenty miles to Bernadotte) I would first line the bottom of the bed with wet grass, on which I arranged the mussels and then again covered them up well with the wet blankets. On reaching home they were at once transferred to a large tub containing water. They must be cleaned without the use of hot water and immediately given a good bath of glycerine, and then kept in a cool place.

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#### DESCRIPTION OF NEW SPECIES OF ANCTUS AND OLIVA.<sup>1</sup>

BY JOHN FORD, PHILADELPHIA.

*Anotus Pilsbryi* Ford. Fig. 1.

See THE NAUTILUS iv, p. 81, 1890; Proc. Acad. N. S. Phila. 1891, p. 81.

Shell rimately umbilicated, the axis imperforate; ovate-conical, spire acute, apex black; whorls 7, slightly convex, the last some-

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<sup>1</sup> Reprinted by permission, from Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phila. 1891, pp. 97, 98.