

therefore becomes necessary to substitute a new generic name for the molluscan *Scutellina*, and since the root of that word has become associated with the *Echinodermata*, a change to something totally different may be advisable. As a substitute, therefore, I offer the term PHENACOLEPAS, "a deceptive limpet."

The synonyms are as follows:

Scutella BRODERIP, P. Z. S. 1834, p. 47 (in part).

Not *Scutella* LAMARCK, AN. S. Vert. III, p. 7 (1816).

Scutellina GRAY, P. Z. S. 1847, p. 168, and of authors generally.

Not *Scutellina* AGASSIZ, Monogr. d'Échinodermes, Second Monog. des Scutelles, p. 98 (1841).

DESTRUCTION OF ANODONTA CORPULENTA CPR. AT THOMPSON'S
LAKE, ILL.

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

Recently while on a collecting trip to Thompson's Lake on the Illinois River, I was greatly surprised at the immense number of dead mussels that lined the shores from one end of this body of water to the other.

A windrow of them extended a little beyond the water's edge clear around the lake a distance of not less than ten miles.

Upon going on to the lake in a boat I found that dead shells, with the animal still in them, were also floating all over its surface. There was absolutely thousands of them and it certainly amounted to extinction of a very beautiful and interesting species, the *Anodonta corpulenta* of Cooper.

The other *Anodonta*, the *suborbiculata* of Say, for which this lake is headquarters, did not seem to be affected and there were not more dead ones to be seen than in previous years.

I immediately set about to ascertain the cause of this wholesale destruction of the corpulenta.

On enquiring of Captain Schulte and other fishermen who owned the lake, they had but one theory as to the cause, and that it was the common northern bull-head catfish, *Amiurus nebulosus* L. S., that was doing the mischief.

They explained that this fish would attach his wide mouth over one end of the shell and suck until the muscular power of the mus-

sel was exhausted, the shell relax, when the juices would be withdrawn, after which the animal would die.

On further enquiry I could find no one that had ever caught Mr. Catfish in the act, and I was not altogether satisfied with this theory.

This lake, in common with the Illinois, Mississippi and nearly all of the western rivers, is at lower ebb than ever before known in the history of the country. From accounts in the daily papers there is great mortality among the fish of the Mississippi River, and immense numbers are dying as a result of this low water.

Might not this be the cause of the death of the mollusks in this lake? Is the same phenomena observed in other bodies of water? Let us hear from other points. Or, have the catfish in this lake, like an egg-sucking dog, learned a trick and are making the most of it.

ON THE BYSSUS OF UNIONIDÆ. II.

BY DR. V. SPERKI.

Some time since I succeeded, not without hard work, in finding three more specimens of *Unio* with a byssus, one *U. luteolus* Lam., 15 mm. long, one *U.* (prob.) *ligamentinus*, only 9 mm. long, and *U.* ? 8 mm. Unfortunately I had not leisure to make an examination as exact as I wished; yet to my account in the last NAUTILUS I can add the following: the threads were for the most part colorless, or only slightly brownish. On the parts examined I found the cortical layer little developed. The byssus were more or less branched; on a piece of one about three inches long, I counted seven branches. Of the formation of these I can give an idea best by comparing them with a grass stalk: the branches sprung out from like leaves with short sheath, the latter with circularly arranged fibres, apparently not derived from the inner part of the "stem," but at a short distance, the branch, first flat, like a leaf, further off growing more or less cylindrical, was entirely composed of longitudinal fibres, which consequently are formed for themselves by apposition and the main thread is not split.

Later I had a chance to get some other very young mussels, among which was one only 3.5 mm. long, the smallest I have found so far,