DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW OR NOTEWORTHY SHELLS IN THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.

By Charles Hedley, Assistant Curator.

(Plates xl.-xlv.)

Nucula superba, Hedley.

(Plate xl., figs. 1, 2).


In treating of Nucula obliqua, Lamarck, I suggested that whereas the type of that species had a smooth inner margin to the valve and was a native of Tasmania, the name had been in error applied to a much larger shell from tropical Queensland with an inner margin microscopically crenulated and with long rake-like teeth. For this Queensland form I proposed the name of Nucula superba.

The size and habitat of Nucula loringi, Adams and Angas¹, correspond to that of N. superba, but their phrase "margin intus simplice," is inconsistent. The crenulation of the inner margin of N. superba is only visible on good specimens and under a lens. But had it been overlooked by the authors, Mr. E. A. Smith would have referred to N. loringi in discussing the large Queensland Nucula².

Hab.—The example figured is 19 mm. long, 15 mm. high, the single valve 4 mm. deep; it was taken by Mr. A. U. Henn in 10½ fathoms near Bow Reef off Cape Sidmouth, North Queensland. I have obtained the species in 15 fathoms off the Palm Islands, in 5-10 fathoms Hope Islands, and in 4-14 fathoms Albany Passage, Queensland.