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that overhung the bank, by a shot which we hazarded at some as they flew from a pool a hundred yards or so ahead of us. In the solitude of such places as this, these birds find secure retreats; and from the half dried-up pools have their fill of fishes, crustacea and reptiles which, when the water becomes nearly exhausted by the summer’s drought, are so numerous in the little pools to which they are confined as to keep the water in constant agitation.

THE CALIFORNIAN TRIVIA AND SOME POINTS IN ITS DISTRIBUTION.

BY ROBERT E. C. STEARNS.

In the month of March, 1868, Mr. W. G. W. Harford and myself made a short visit to Monterey for the purpose of collecting, devoting most of the time to an investigation of the outer or ocean shore of Point Piños in the vicinity of the lighthouse. Here are great numbers of granite boulders which have been thrown up by the sea; by wading in at low tide to a depth of two or three feet, and conveying to the shore such stones as could be lifted by us, we were able to make a deliberate and careful examination. Upon the underside of some of the heavy boulders, we found numerous colonies of the corals, *Paraeyathus Stearnsii* and *Balanophyllia elegans* (Fig. 144), described by Prof. Verrill of Yale; when first taken from the water and therefore alive, these corals are of a beautiful red color, a shade between orange and scarlet, and vivid as a coal of fire; when dead the stony portion soon fades and becomes a dingy white. Upon these brilliantly colored coral animals, the animal of *Trivia Californica* (Fig. 145, shell, enlarged twice) subsists, at least in part, for I cannot assert that it does not, like other Californians, seek a variety in its bill of fare, and it is not unlikely that it feeds sometimes upon the jelly-like portion of the living sponges.

The animal of *Trivia Californica* (Fig. 146, enlarged twice) is of the same color as the animal of *B. elegans*; the mantle and
body a vivid orange-scarlet; the body proportionally very much shorter posteriorly and narrower than in *Trivia Europaea* Mont. (Fig. 147, natural size), as figured in Adams' Genera, Vol. iii, pl. 28, fig. 5; towards and at the end of the proboscis, the color tones into a reddish-brown; the eyes are upon slight protuberances upon the outer base of the tentacles; the color of the mantle (which is quite thin and almost transparent) when extended over the back of the shell is neutralized by the purple color of the latter, and the edge of the mantle appears to be slightly waved, and is alternately closely dotted with small whitish and brownish spots; small whitish papillose spots may also be seen irregularly placed on the surface and sides of the mantle; the animal is quite active; from a fancied resemblance to beans, our Spanish Californians residing along the coast call the shells which they frequently find on the beaches, "frijoles." The Trivia is also found in the Gulf of California.

An interesting fact pertaining to the distribution of this and quite likely other related species is worthy of notice. Bodega Head, where in June, 1867, accompanied by Dr. W. Newcomb, I made a collection, is about one hundred and forty miles north of Point Piños, and consists of an abrupt but not very extensive outcropping of coarse granite similar to the rocks of Point Piños; at Bodega I detected the same species of corals and the Trivia, subsequently collected at the Monterey station; the corals seem to affect the harder rock, for at the intervening points where I have made collections, I have been unable to find either of the corals or a solitary Trivia, the coast being composed almost exclusively of the sedimentary rocks.

The common shore shell, *Littorina planaxis*, also appears partial to the granite, though sometimes found on the shales.

From the above it may be inferred, other requirements being present, especially the proper temperature of the water, that the occurrence of the corals is coincident with the presence of the granite, that of the Trivia with the corals upon which it feeds;
it may be that the Littorina, the animal unlike that of the Trivia being a vegetarian, finds its favorite food in some marine vegetable form peculiar to the granite, or that some form of vegetation, which grows upon the shales as well as the harder rock, has some quality imparted to it by the granite which renders it more palatable to the Littorina, and hence its apparent preference for a granitic habitat or station.

THE ALPINE FLORA OF COLORADO.

By Rev. E. L. Greene.

By means of the collections made and distributed a few years since by Dr. C. C. Parry and Messrs. Hall and Harbour, the botany of the Alpine region of the Rocky Mountains is very well represented to the few who have been able to avail themselves of sets of specimens made by these collectors. Dr. Parry has been collecting in this region again during the past season, and will probably soon be ready to distribute sets that will very beautifully represent this Alpine flora of our West. For the pleasure of many interested parties, who may fail to procure these rare and valuable collections, we purpose giving, through our common friend the Naturalist, a brief sketch of some of these beauties of the higher mountains, as they appear to one who has more than once visited them in their Alpine homes.

At the altitude of nearly eleven thousand feet, as one passes upward among the pines and spruces which become more scattering in numbers, and more and more dwarfed in stature, because we are rapidly approaching the limit of trees, no one who notices flowers will fail to observe first of all, the brilliant painted cup (Castilleia), the scarlet flowered varieties of which might at first be mistaken for the common Castilleia coccinea. But this plant is of a quite distinct species; and notwithstanding the exceeding brightness of its flowers, at this particular altitude, passing as they do into almost every possible shade of red, and sometimes to a beautiful mauve or purple (so that it is difficult to find two different roots producing the same color of flower), its true name is