

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07689-0 - A Monograph of the Crag Mollusca: With Descriptions of Shells from the Upper Tertiaries of the British Isles:

Volume 2: Bivalves

Searles V. Wood

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The Palaeontographical Society was established in 1847, and is the oldest Society devoted to study of palaeontology worldwide. Its primary role is to promote the description and illustration of the British fossil flora and fauna, via publication of an authoritative monograph series. These monographs cover a wide range of taxonomic groups, from microfossils, trilobites and ammonites through to Coal Measure plants, mammals and reptiles, and from all ages from Cambrian to Pleistocene. They form a benchmark for understanding the past life of the British Isles and many include the original descriptions of numerous key species. The first monograph (on the Crag Mollusca) was published in March 1848 and the Society still continues this work today. Notable authors in the series include Charles Darwin (fossil barnacles) and Richard Owen (dinosaurs and other extinct reptiles). Beginning in 2014, the Cambridge Library Collection and the Society are collaborating to reissue the earlier publications, focusing on monographs completed between 1848 and 1918.

A Monograph of the Crag Mollusca

The Pliocene–Pleistocene Crags of East Anglia are an incredibly rich source of fossil shells, many belonging to extant Boreal and Mediterranean genera. Dominated by marine gastropods and bivalves, the deposits also contain evidence of terrestrial and non-marine gastropods and bivalves, brachiopods, and extensive epifauna including bryozoans. Published between 1848 and 1879 in four volumes, the latter two being supplements with further descriptions and geological notes, this monograph by Searles Valentine Wood (1798–1880) covers more than 650 species and varieties of fossil mollusc. For each species Wood gives a synonymy, diagnosis (in Latin), full description, dimensions, occurrence and remarks. The supplements also provide a breakdown of the species and their current distribution. The detailed plates were prepared by the conchologist George Brettingham Sowerby and his namesake son. Volume 2 (1851–61) covers bivalves and brachiopods, illustrated in 31 plates.

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OF THE

C R A G M O L L U S C A,

WITH

DESCRIPTION OF SHELLS

FROM THE

UPPER TERTIARIES OF THE BRITISH ISLES.

BY

SEARLES V. WOOD, F.G.S.

VOL. II.

BIVALVES.

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To the Subscribers.

AN earnest desire was expressed at the commencement of this work to make the Monograph as complete as possible, and I beg to return my best thanks to those kind friends who have so readily and obligingly assisted me with the use of their specimens for that purpose. I have now to repeat my request that if there be any species or extraordinary varieties unnoticed, amongst the Genera already described, in the Cabinets of Collectors to which I may not have had access, or which I may have overlooked, or that may have been recently discovered, if they will allow me to have them introduced into the next and concluding portion, I shall be still further obliged. We shall then have done our best to make known the 'Crag Mollusca,' and I may here state, for the information of any future investigator of the Crag Deposits, who may be desirous of verifying the types of what are herein described, that I have given my entire collection of these fossils to the British Museum.

S. V. WOOD.

March; 1853.