

*Hab.* N.W. GUATEMALA: in the district Cholhuitz, on the slope of the Volcan de Santa Maria, at the plantation Helvetia, on the ground, in the second-growth woods, two specimens (*O. Stoll*).

This strange genus was for a long time only known from the tropical parts of India and Polynesia. One American representative has, however, been recorded; this was found on the island of Trinidad by L. Guppy (*cf.* *Am. Journ. Conch.* iv. p. 178, and vi. p. 308), and referred by him to the Indian *D. huttoni*, Pfr. I have a specimen from Trinidad before me, and find that in *D. stoll*i the riblets are very much stronger and less numerous.

### Fam. HELICINIDÆ.

The shells of the Helicinidæ, as their name implies, resemble somewhat those of the well-known genus *Helix*; but they are easily to be distinguished from the great majority of the *Helices* by the central part of the lower face being filled up by a shelly callosity instead of being excavated into an umbilicus. Moreover, the presence of a shelly operculum (wanting only in *Proserpina*) and of but one pair of feelers, and the position of the eyes at the base (not on the tip) of them, widely separate the Helicinidæ from *Helix*, as also the internal structure, the individual distinction of the sexes, and the quality of the radula (Rhipidoglossata); as regards the radula, they agree only with the Neritinæ among all land and freshwater shells, and they seem therefore to belong to a peculiar series of Mollusca, ascending from marine life to a terrestrial one through *Trochus*, *Nerita*, *Neritina*, *Hydrocena*, and *Helicina*. The semicircular form of the aperture and of the operculum, and the want of spiral structure in the latter, serve to distinguish them from the families Cyclophoridæ and Cyclostomidæ (with the exception of the genus *Bourciera*, which does not come within the limits of this work).

The Helicinidæ are nearly circumtropical and prominently insular, being wanting only in the continent of Africa, but they are extremely scarce in the tropical regions of Asia, and here limited to the south-eastern sea-shores (China, Siam, Arakan); and they are represented in Europe, with the Azores and the Canary Islands, only by the peculiar and rare genus *Hydrocena*. The islands of the Pacific and those of the Caribbean Sea are their head-quarters; Cuba, for example, having eighty-three species, and Jamaica thirty-one. They extend, however, in North and in South America farther than the Cyclostomidæ; *Helicina orbiculata* is found alive in Georgia and Tennessee, and also postpleiocene in the Mississippi valley, and several species occur in Southern Brazil.

We know at present about forty species found within Mexico and Central America, including some which are doubtfully distinct. They are distributed over the whole area in the following manner:—