

On the occurrence of the *Helicigona lapicida* (L.)
in the Netherlands.

by

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The name of this well-known snail is to find on the list of the land molluscs of the Netherlands, as being reported from a few localities in the southern part of our country and one in the dunes of the province of N. Holland. More than ten years ago, we were already engaged to find this snail in the living state, but never had success. Meanwhile, in the exploration of the surrounding regions of our country, we found the living snails often in great quantities, not far from our boundaries. The snail occurs on the old walls of the castle of Bentheim at that town in the province of Westphal in Germany. In other parts of Germany, not so far from our province Southern Limburg, the snail is very common on different localities in the Eifel at Monchau, Nideggen and Heimbach, going southwards to Prumzurly in the southern Eifel. The snail occurs moreover also in Belgium on rocks near the lake of Gileppe and different other places in the Ardennes, whereas it is also very common in the grand duchy of Luxemburg. Well known localities here are Echternach, Grundhof, Müllerthal, Berdorf, Stolzenbourg and Vianden.

Dr. M. A. Donk found in the year 1927 albino-shells of this snail, near Echternach. These albinos represent the true *Helix albella* of Linné. It is now very curious that we were unable to detect the snail on the localities formerly indicated in southern Limburg in our own country. An exhaustive exploration of the whole calcareous region throughout the whole part of southern Limburg, proved that the shells of the snail are present, but we never found a living animal or a dead shell of recent origine.

In the year 1931 we found 4 shells in woods on calcareous ground near Epen amongst ivy (*Hedera Helix*). These specimens were deprived of the periostracum, they had a white calcareous aspect but the colouring of the ostracum was still

present as transverse pale reddish streaks. Quite the same specimens (2 pieces) were found by us in the year 1933 when we explored the Savels wood near Gronsveld.

On the list of the molluscs, found in the Netherlands, by Miss van Benthem Jutting, in Tijdschrift Ned. Dierk. Ver. XX. (1927), our snail is indicated with an asterisk, this means that a living specimen was not yet found in our country. Miss van Benthem Jutting gives 3 localities in the Netherlands, one in the dunes at Bloemendaal, province of North Holland. This is certainly an accidental locality, being there introduced or it may be that the reported locality is erroneous. The two other localities are the calcareous slopes of St. Pieter near the town of Maastricht and the slopes near Berg and Terblijt along the rivulet of the Geul. These two places in southern Limburg were often visited by one of us, but the shell was never found there. A shell, indicated as found near Maastricht, was once seen in a museum; it was a much worn calcareous specimen, agreeing with our own shells from that regions.

We therefore conclude that formerly the *Helicigona laticida* was an inhabitant of our country, now being quite extinct and occurring to day only in a fossil state. We found it in the strata which immediately cover the calcareous layers of the senone. At Gronsveld we found the specimens in situ in the disintegrated strata just above the senone, at Epen amongst ivy at the base of the hills, probably washed out by the rains from the higher parts of the slopes.

Samenvatting.

In ons land is *Helicigona laticida* nooit levend aangetroffen, ofschoon deze slak in het aangrenzende gebied van Duitschland en België veel voorkomt. De opgegeven vindplaats Bloemendaal is een zeer toevallige zoo niet zeer aan twijfel onderhevige vondst. De opgaven voor Zuid Limburg daarentegen, ofschoon betrekking hebbend op ledige huisjes, zijn betrouwbaar daar door ons bij langjarige exploratie van Zuid Limburg

voor malacologische inventarisatie, de huisjes werden gevonden bij Epen in het bosch onder klimop en in het Savelsche bosch bij Gronsveld. Deze vindplaatsen komen, wat localiteit betreft, volkomen overeen met de vroegere vondsten op den St. Pietersberg bij Maastricht en met die der boschhellingen langs de Geul in de gemeente Berg en Terblijt. Op deze oudere vindplaatsen kon de *Helicigona* niet worden teruggevonden. De nieuwere vondsten bij Epen en Gronsveld verschillen in zoverre dat de exemplaren uit Epen los tusschen klimop werden aangetroffen aan den voet der boschhelling, ze waren bros en kalkachtig zonder opperhuid en zeker door regen uit hooger gelegen lagen uitgespoeld. De exemplaren van Gronsveld werden echter in situ aangetroffen in de verweerde bovenste lagen die onmiddellijk op het krijt rusten.