coral differs by having narrower intercalicular areas and much stouter costæ and frequently a raised calicular rim. Dr. Felix * does not quote any coral under the name of *Stylina* from the Neocomian of Puebla; but he describes a species as a *Cryptocœnia*, which, however, is probably a *Cyathophora*.

LIV.—*Description of* Conus (Cylinder) clytospira, *sp. n.*, *from the Arabian Sea.* By James Cosmo Melvill, M.A., F.L.S., and Robert Standen.

Conus (*Cylinder*) *clytospira* †, sp. n.

C. testa magna, elegantissime attenuato-cylindrica, lævi, parum nitida, alba, brunneo-, castaneo- vel ochraceo-reticulata et maculata, sicut in *C. aulico* vel *C. episcopo*, spira mire conspicua; anfractibus sedecim, pulchre gradatis, infra suturas excavatis, angulatis, deinde rectis, quorum novem supernis, sub lente spiraliter scalptis, parvis, albidis, in medio angulatis, ad angulum minute albi-nodulosis, ultimo anfractu pergracili, attenuato, ad basin leniter producto, spiraliter interrupte bi- vel trifasciato; apertura angusta, contracta, labro tenui, supra, apud suturam, late excavato; columella recta.

Long. 119, lat. 37 mm. (sp. maj.).
„ 108, „ 33 „ (sp. min.).

Hab. Arabian Sea, about 125 miles W.S.W. of Bombay, long. 71° 30′ to 71° 45′ E., lat. 18° 43′ N., adhering to the submarine cable of the Eastern Telegraph Co.; hauled up from 45 fathoms (*F. W. Townsend, Esq.*).

The dredging of this remarkable textile cone undeniably constitutes one of the most important discoveries of the kind during the nineteenth century. It will rank amongst the most select of a genus unusually distinguished in both form, texture, and coloration. In form, indeed, it is more gracefully attenuate than its nearest ally, *C. gloria-maris*, Chemn., but in the latter characteristic, viz. coloration and pattern of marking, it more assimilates *C. aulicus*, L., or *episcopus*, Hwass, being twice or thrice interruptedly spirally banded on the last whorl, with coarse, widely spread reticulations enclosing oblong, obtusely triangular, or trapezoid spaces of varying dimensions.

* J. Felix, "Verst. mexican. Jura- u. Kr.-Form.," Palæontogr. vol. xxxvii. 1891, p. 154, pl. xxiv. figs. 5, 5 *a–b*.

† κλίτος, illustrious, σπεῖρα, spire.

The spire, however, is the most distinguishing characteristic, measuring as it does 45 millim., or about $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch, longitudinally, in our largest example, and possessing sixteen whorls, the upper white, more angled, with minute white gemmuled nodules, the lower seven gradate, channelled and grooved, angled, and fairly straight. The spire of *C. gloria-maris*, Chemn., in the collection of one of us, is but twelve-whorled, not so conspicuously gradate, with no sign of the noduled angle in the centre of the upper whorls. *C. pyramidalis*, Lam., seems the only other species with an elevated spire at all possessing similar characteristics, though smooth throughout.

In the "Notes on the Subgenus *Cylinder* of *Conus*, 1886–7"*, thirty-nine forms in all were enumerated by Melvill, to which one, besides the present shell under discussion, viz. *C. Prevostianus*, Sowb., has to be added. The *C. clytospira* seems to us to fall, despite the similarity in marking to *C. episcopus*, into the third section "*Pyramidalia*," of *Coni textiles veri*, in company with *C. gloria-maris*, Chemn., and *C. pyramidalis*, Lam., and also perhaps *C. legatus*, Lam.

It may be interesting here to quote some remarks of Mr. F. W. Townsend's on the subject under date September 14, 1899:—

"The cable of the Eastern Telegraph Company laid in 1870 required overhauling, and a new piece, about 13 miles in length, being substituted; and we [Indo-European Telegraph Co.] were asked to undertake this work for them. Of course we had to take up so much of the old cable as we could get. We recovered, I think, about ten miles of it, and an enormous quantity of shells came up with it. They were all dead, but several were in a very good state of preservation. They are for the most part cones, and came up quite imbedded in the outer covering of the cable, a coat of pitch compound on jute yarn. The only theory I can assume for there being so many of them is that in their living state they got caught by the pitch on coming across the cable, and were thus poisoned. This cable, I may state, had not been touched for nearly thirty years; it was laid on a coarse sandy bottom with occasional patches of rock, and, excepting where the rock occurred, came up almost as clean as the day it was laid. Depth, say, 45 fathoms.

"The large cone will, I hope, prove to be undescribed. I know nothing like it in form excepting *C. gloria-maris*, and

* Mem. Manch. Lit. & Phil. Soc. series iii. vol. x. p. 76.

it does not possess the fine reticulations of that species. When the old cable was being hove in many things dropped off, unfortunately, after leaving the water, and before they could be shipped on board, and many more were knocked off by the cheeks of the bow-sheaves; and I saw a most lovely specimen of this cone unfortunately so knocked off, I think about 2 inches longer * than the best of the couple I secured."—*F. W. T.*

We may add that the bulk of the Mollusca obtained at the same time consisted of *Coni* of four or five species, none of them of frequent occurrence. About one hundred *C. planiliratus*, Sowb., hitherto only dredged at two points on the Malabar coast; *C. acutangulus*, Brug., not uncommon; and two species, probably new, were present more rarely. A *Marginella*, sp. n.; two undescribed *Pleurotomæ*; with *Drillia Tayloriana*, Reeve, *Rostellaria curta*, Sow., *Murex malabaricus*, Smith, and *Ficula reticulata*, Lam., also occurred. All were unfortunately more or less injured with the pitch, manganese, and ferruginous oxide of the cable, being indelibly stained. Others, again, were much riddled by worms; but a few remained in fairly good condition, and by their epidermis showed that they had been live shells when they came in contact with the cable.

Two examples of the *Conus clytospira*, as already remarked, occurred, both specimens agreeing save in coloration, one being paler than the other, with ochraceous markings.

It is hoped that shortly they will be placed in our National Collection, South Kensington, and, we may add, it is our intention to have them figured; but this will probably not be until the full account we contemplate writing of all the Molluscan collections of Mr. Townsend formed since 1893 in the Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf is published.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

The History of the European Fauna. By R. F. Scharff, B.Sc., Ph.D., Keeper of the Natural History Collections, Science and Art Museum, Dublin. Contemp. Sci. Series. London: W. Scott, Ltd., 1899.

Dr. Scharff's association with the comprehensive study of our European fauna is so well recognized that the present volume comes as the realization of a desire by his friends and sympathizers that he would give us his views in a more extended and popular form than they have hitherto assumed. This he has now done;

* This specimen would therefore have been 7 inches long.