

a transverse row of five spines. The adambulacral plates are convex towards the ambulacrum, and carry on their inner edge three or four spines; the other spines on these plates are stouter, with blunted ends, and would seem in younger examples to have been arranged in two or three regular longitudinal rows; such regularity, however, is considerably obscured in well-grown specimens. The rich supply of stout blunt spines which distinguishes the adambulacral region and the infero-marginal plates is a characteristic also of the intermediate plates on the ventral surface, the transverse axes of which are completely covered by them, about ten being, in the larger specimen, found to be set in one more or less regular line at the angle of the disk.

The madreporic plate is large, and, though not projecting, is very distinct; it is distant a little more than its own diameter from the edge of the disk. The abactinal surface of the larger specimen is greyish brown, and of the smaller orange-yellow; both are, unfortunately, dried.

Like *Archaster angulatus*, *A. magnificus* attains a considerable size, but, as compared with that species, has the skeletal plates of its arm distinctly not so stout; it is possibly in consequence of this that we find the spines themselves so richly and so well developed.

Indeed we have much evidence in support of the generalization that in littoral species, at any rate, the strength and number of the spines is in inverse proportion to the stoutness of the skeletal plates: when these are strong, the starfish is enabled to withstand the bite of an enemy; but when they are weaker, a defensive apparatus is provided in longer, stronger, and stouter spines.

XLVI.—Description of two new Species of Shells.

By EDGAR A. SMITH.

*Cypræa fallax.*

Testa pyriformi-ovata, postice subumbilicata vel excavata, lutea, maculis albis parvis notata, basi marginibusque albis; labrum mediocriter crassum, postice aliquanto productum, dentibus 23 subæqualibus munitum; labium internum dentibus 23 paulo minoribus parum prominentibus instructum. Longit. 36 mill., lat. 20.

*Hab.* West Australia.

This shell closely resembles the common *C. cribraria*; but I venture to describe it as a new species for the following

*Ann. & Mag. N. Hist.* Ser. 5. Vol. viii. 31

reasons. It is larger than any specimen of that species which has come under my observation, and of a pear-like shape (in which respect it resembles *C. miliaris* or *C. Cumingii*), it has more than the average number (about nineteen) of teeth on the labrum, and the white spots are smaller and not so clearly defined as in *C. cribraria*. The fawn-colour is paler than in most specimens of the latter (perhaps the result of bleaching), and on the right side towards the labrum it is somewhat deeper in tone. This darker tint (possibly an individual peculiarity) commences where the white margination ceases, and extends upwards between the white spots in the form of irregular streaks, and thus does not terminate in a defined line. An almost invariable character of *C. cribraria* is the circularity and clear definition of the white spots, which, too, are very frequently margined with a dark ring. Many specimens (I believe, even the majority) of that species in addition exhibit a few minute brown dots just above or on the white lateral ridge. On the contrary, in *C. fallax* the white spots appear to blend into the fawn-colour, and no indication of minute dotting is traceable. The locality (West Australia) may also be slight evidence in favour of its specific distinctness; for, as far as I can ascertain, *C. cribraria* is not known from that region.

*Conus clarus.*

Testa abbreviato-turbinata, dilute rosacea, basim versus oblique sulcata; spira breviter conica, apice acuto, lateribus leviter concavis; anfractus 8-9, plani, declives, parum gradati, striis tenuibus circiter 7 spiraliter sculpti; anfr. ultimus superne ad angulum subacuto carinatus, infra carinam vix convexus, lateribus fere rectilinearibus; apertura angusta, pallide rosacea; labrum vix arcuatum, sinu superiore inconspicuo. Longit. 27 mill., lat. max. 14.

*Hab.* West Australia.

This species possesses no very striking features by which it may be recognized. The uniformity of its colour (a very pale pink, or white with a blush of pink), the sharpness and carination of the angle of the body-whorl, and the fine striation of the spire are the principal characters. Only a single specimen was received by Mr. G. B. Sowerby, from whom it was purchased for the Museum, together with the *Cypræa* just described, which is likewise unique at present.

The only species at all resembling *C. clarus* is *C. cyanostoma*, A. Adams. The figure of the latter (Sowerby's Thesaurus Conch. pl. cc. fig. 304) will serve as a guide to the form of this species, which, however, is a trifle narrower.