

der peculiar circumstances that one can stop the ship in mid-ocean and hunt for them, they are little known. One or two of their shells are met with in collections; one especially, *Carinaria*, a beautiful little glassy boat, which one would take at first for some form of the paper-nautilus. The shell of *Carinaria* gives no idea, however, of the form of the animal (Fig. 24), which, with one or two allied genera—such as *Pterotrachea* and *Firoloides*, which do not produce shells at all, is sometimes abundant in calm weather on the surface of the warm seas.

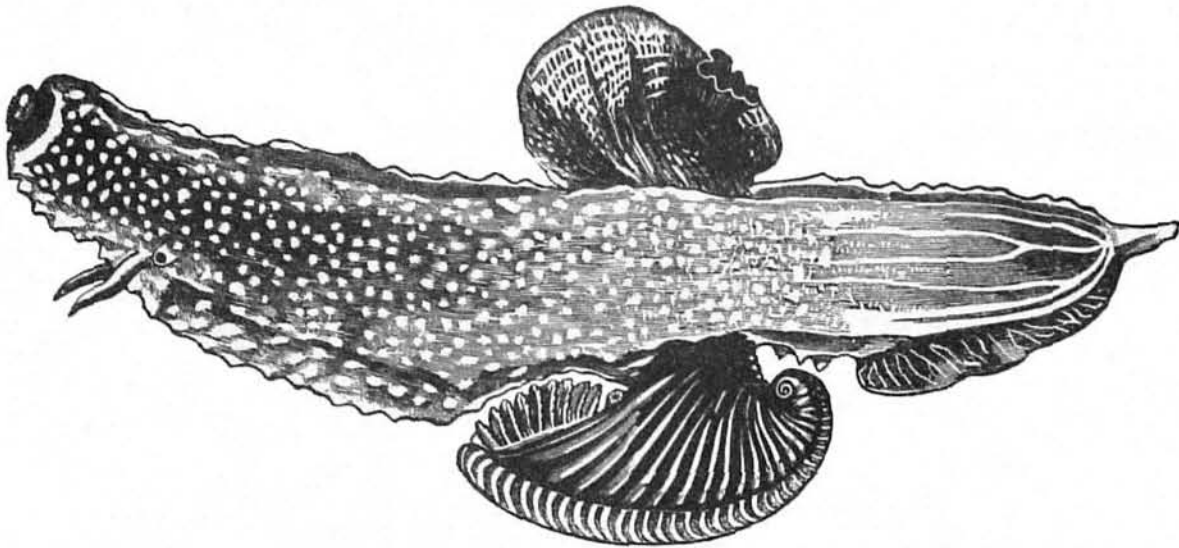


FIG. 24.—*Carinaria Atlantica*. Natural size. Surface. (No. 4.)

The shell hangs below the animal, connected with it by a kind of neck, and is merely meant for the protection of some very vital organs, including the heart, the gills, and the liver. The remainder of the animal is ten times the size of the shell, and forms a large sac, usually gelatinous and very transparent, often dotted over with purple pigment spots. The front of the sac is drawn out into a long, singularly formed snout, and near it there are bright, well-marked eyes and a pair of feelers. The posterior part of the sac is produced into a fin-like tail. Along the upper middle line of the animal, in the position in which it swims in the water, the part corresponding with the "foot" in ordinary shell-fish is raised into a high, crest-like fin. The bodies of these creatures are large, some of them not less than five or six inches in length, but, like most free, floating animals,