

tudinals—the whorls are crossed by an immense number of minute, sharp, very oblique riblets, whose course is from right to left; they extend to the whole base; at irregular intervals one of these swells to a varix. Spirals—there are similar, but smaller, more numerous, and closer-set spirals, over which the longitudinal ribs rise. *Colour* porcelainous white. *Spire* high, narrow, conical. *Apex* consists of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  hardly rounded, glossy, conical whorls, parted by a scarcely impressed suture, and rising to a very minute rounded tip. *Whorls* 10 in all, convex, of regular increase; the last is small, with a well-rounded base. *Suture* rather deeply impressed, oblique. *Mouth* encircled with a strong varix, a little oblong, slightly oblique in both its planes. *Outer lip* well arched, rounded, contracted above, patulous in front. *Inner lip* narrow, thick, continuous with the outer lip. H. 0·16 in. B. 0·05. Penultimate whorl, height 0·02. Mouth, height 0·04, breadth 0·03.

This is a peculiarly narrow species, of a rather remarkable style of sculpture.

#### 10. *Scalaria (Acirsa) subdecussata*, Cantraine.

*Scalaria subdecussata*, Cantraine, Bull. Acad. Brux., 1835, vol. ii. p. 388.

„ „ Cantraine, Mém. Acad. Brux., 1840, vol. xiii. pl. vi. fig. 24.

*Turritella Philippi*, Aradas and Maggiore, Cat. Conch. Sicil., 1840.

*Mesalia striata*, Hidalgo, Cat. moll. test. mar. Espagne, &c., Journ. de conch., 1867, vol. xv. p. 394, sp. 2.

„ „ Weinkauff, Conch. Mittelmeeres, vol. ii. p. 323.

*Scalaria subdecussata*, Nyst, Tableau du genre *Scalaria*, p. 60, No. 295.

*Acirsa* „ Monterosato, Enumerazione, p. 30.

*Mesalia* „ Aradas and Benoit, Conch. Mar. Sicil., p. 187, No. 498.

*Acirsa* „ Monterosato, Notes sur coquilles de Palerme, Journ. de conch., 1878, vol. xxvi. p. 151, No. 91.

*Scalaria* „ Jeffreys, Moll. "Lightning" and "Porcupine," Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1884, p. 132, sp. 1.

February 10, 1873. Gomera, Canaries. 75 fathoms.

*Habitat*.—Sardinia, "common" (Cantraine), Mediterranean (Monterosato), Madeira (my own dredging), Canaries (M'Andrew), Atlantic coasts of France and Spain, from 20 to 57 fathoms (Jeffreys).

*Fossil*.—Pliocene of Altavilla (Tiberi teste Jeffreys).

This is the *Mesalia striata* of M'Andrew's Brit. Assoc. Reports, p. 40, but not of Adams (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1851, p. 279), which is from the Philippines (see Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1855, p. 123). The form of the animal in this species, the operculum, and the arrangement, number, and shape of the teeth in the radula, are exactly those of a *Scalaria*, of which genus it has also the beautiful purple secretion. If I have classed the species here as an *Acirsa*, which it certainly is not, the reason is that there is no other subgenus in which it can be put, and that if subgenera are to be admitted at all, it is impossible to call such a shell as this a *Scalaria* pure and simple. It is the least typical of all *Scalarias*.