

24. *Nassa (Tritia) brychia*,¹ Watson (Pl. XI. fig. 5).

Nassa (Tritia) brychia, Watson, Prelim. Report, pt. 13, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. xvi. p. 365, sp. 3.

Station VIII. February 12, 1873. Lat. 28° 3' 15" N., long. 17° 27' W. Off Gomera, Canaries. 620 fathoms. Volcanic mud.

Shell.—Strong, coarse, dirty white, ovate, rather stumpy, with a conical subscalar spire, a small blunt apex, a round truncated base, a very short pillar, and scarcely any snout. *Sculpture*: Longitudinals—the whorls are crossed by blunt, narrow, sparse, sinistrally oblique riblets, which continue to the snout; the last forms a strong varix on the edge of the lip; the lines of growth are fine, but towards the mouth become coarse. Spirals—below the suture is a slight shoulder formed by a row of coarse, depressed tubercles marking the upper end of the riblets; on the upper whorls there are 2 to 3, on the body about 5, coarse, shallow furrows parted by broadish flat bands; on the base there are 6 of these furrows with narrower bands; round the base of the pillar winds obliquely a shallow furrow, with a slight sharpish band in front; the short pillar is scored with the old contorted canal-scars. *Colour* a dirty porcellanous yellowish white. *Spire* rather short, conical, subscalar. *Apex* blunt and rounded, consisting of 3½ smooth, depressedly turbinate whorls, of which the tip is very small. *Whorls* 9, conical, scarcely convex, not constricted below, with a short rounded base. *Suture* margined, and this margin tubercled. *Mouth* oval, open, bluntly pointed above. *Outer lip* sharp on the edge, sparsely toothed, patulous, almost straight, slightly advancing below, but not prominent on the base; the canal has a slightly reverted flange. *Inner lip* straight; on the body it is a little hollowed into the pillar, which is very short, and has in front a thickened (but not flanged) twisted edge; the pad of glaze is not thick, and has a sharply defined outer edge throughout its whole length. H. 0·65 in. B. 0·37. Penultimate whorl, height 0·14. Mouth, height 0·35, breadth 0·2.

This resembles *Nassa reticulata*, Lam., more than any other Atlantic form; but, besides being much smaller, the form of spire is much more scalar; the ribs and spiral threads are much fewer, and their intersections are flattened, not tubercled; the callus on the lip is not indefinitely spread on the body; the junction of the pillar and the body is not so deeply furrowed; and the front of the pillar has no threads, only scars. It somewhat approaches a variety of *Nassa trivittata*, Say; but that has a much more conical, less scalar spire, with more rounded whorls; the last whorl is much less broad, is higher, is more extended in front, and is covered with raised rounded threads.

Mr Marrat, in his most curious and interesting study "On the Varieties of the Shells of the Genus *Nassa*," p. 52, puts this species into a group very remote from either of the above.

¹ βρυχίς, belonging to the deep sea.