

above, cylindrical below in the channel of the *suture*, which is axially impressed. *Mouth* oblong, pointed and channelled above, slightly narrowed below. *Outer lip* thin, scarcely prominent or arched, running out to a blunt point in front to the right, whence it is obliquely truncated backwards to the point of the pillar with a deepish cut. *Inner lip*: there is on the body a very thick prominent and irregular pad of glaze, which curves round the straight point of the pillar and there is 4-plaited, and, with a sharply defined edge, encircles the point of the shell. H. 0.26 in. B. 0.13. Penultimate whorl, height 0.035. Mouth, height 0.19, breadth 0.07.

The low spire, very blunt apex, and four plaits on the pillar-pad distinguish this species from *Oliva rosalina*, Duclos, or *Oliva rufifasciata*, Reeve (which Dr Kobelt holds as = *Oliva mutica*, Say), or *Oliva inconspicua*, C. B. Ad. It is perhaps most like *Oliva pusilla*, C. B. Ad., which it resembles in lowness of spire and angularity at suture; but the spire is even lower than in that species, and the body-whorl is more tumid.

## 2. *Ancilla*, Lam., 1799.

The name *Ancilla* was published by Lamarck in 1799 in his *Prodrome d'une Nouvelle Classification des Coquilles*, *Mémoire de la Société d'histoire Naturelle de Paris*; also, in 1801, *Système des Anim. s. vert.*, p. 73; also in the *Annales du Musée* of the same year, vol. i. p. 474; and, finally, in 1809, in his *Philosophie Zoologique*, vol. i. p. 322. In 1805, Félix de Roissy, in his continuation of Montfort's *Hist. Nat. des Moll.* (Suites à Buffon), vol. v. p. 430, proposed *Anaulax* as a substitute for *Ancilla*, on the ground that its French form (*Ancille*) was too like the French form (*Ancyle*) of *Ancylus*. In 1811, Lamarck, under the influence of the same objection, proposed (*Ann. du Musée*, vol. xvi. p. 305) for *Ancilla* to substitute *Ancillaria*, a change which has been largely accepted, and is warmly defended by Deshayes (*Anim. s. vert. de Paris*, vol. iii. p. 531), who asserts the principle that an author's right of priority entitles him to alter a name at his pleasure. Such a principle is of course untenable, as the right of priority lies not in the author but in the name, which can only be changed for sufficient reasons. That the reasons in this case are sufficient cannot be maintained, based as they are exclusively on the conversational convenience of French malacologists, who can at once obviate the confusion between *Ancille* and *Ancyle* by adopting for the latter the almost universal European pronunciation of *Ankylos* or *Ankyle* in French. But even if the French objection to *Ancilla* be pressed, it must be remembered that our alternative for it is not Lamarck's later name of *Ancillaria*, but Roissy's *Anaulax*, which has been largely employed as a subgeneric title.

## Species.

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| 1. <i>Ancilla</i> ( <i>Anaulax</i> ) <i>obtusa</i> (Swains).     | 4. <i>Ancilla</i> ( <i>Anaulax</i> ) <i>pyramidalis</i> (Reeve). |
| 2. <i>Ancilla</i> ( <i>Anaulax</i> ) <i>mucronata</i> (Sow).     | 5. <i>Ancilla</i> ( <i>Anaulax</i> ) <i>nana</i> , n. sp.        |
| 3. <i>Ancilla</i> ( <i>Anaulax</i> ) <i>montrouzieri</i> (Souv). | 6. <i>Ancilla</i> ( <i>Amalda</i> ) <i>oblonga</i> (Sow).        |
| 7. <i>Ancilla</i> ( <i>Dipsaccus</i> ) <i>cingulata</i> (Sow).   |  |