

NOTE ON *STROMBUS BELUTSCHIENSIS*, MELVILL.

By EDGAR A. SMITH, F.Z.S., etc.

Read 12th January, 1900.

A NUMEROUS suite of specimens of various ages of this recently described species¹ having been presented to the British Museum by Dr. Jayakar, who collected them at Muscat on the Arabian coast, enables me to supplement the original description in a few particulars. In the first place I would call attention to the considerable variation in the coloration. The typical form beneath the periostracum is whitish, "squarely but irregularly spotted and dashed with bright brown markings." Other specimens exhibit a close reticulation of a deep brown colour upon the light ground and two or more irregular transverse bands of the same dark tint upon the last whorl. A tendency to be transversely banded is exhibited in almost every specimen. Other examples are banded, blotched, streaked, and reticulated with even a darker brown colour, which occasionally in some cases becomes nearly black. It is practically impossible to convey an idea of the irregularity and variability of the coloration except by means of numerous coloured figures. The interior of the aperture is often of a rich salmon-red tint. In form some difference is also observable, but chiefly in the greater or less elevation of the spire. The figure of the type represents the medium in this respect. The coloration of the spire is not referred to by Mr. Melvill. It is scarcely ever uncoloured like the type, but invariably exhibits lines and blotches of various shades of brown. The protoconch is light corneous and small, consisting of three smooth convex whorls. The next whorl is also rounded, but spirally striated. Those which follow are gradate, angled at the middle, longitudinally costate, and spirally lirate. Often a few white varices occur upon the upper part of the spire, and the anterior end of the body-whorl is faintly transversely sulcate. The outer lip is thin, acute, white within, and not produced upward as in many other species, but merely reaches the angle of the body-whorl. At this part it is rather deeply incised, and in well-grown adult shells has a much deeper anterior sinus than in the shell figured by Mr. Melvill. The largest example is 53 mm. long and 32 wide.

In describing this form the author observes that the discovery of a new species of *Strombus* was of exceptional interest, because "no addition to the genus has been recorded since 1857." Whilst admitting the interest attaching to the discovery, I would point out that since the date mentioned at least three species have been described, namely, *S. cancellatus*, Pease, in 1860; *S. robustus*, Sowerby, in 1874; and *S. Yerburyi*, Smith, in 1891.

¹ Mem. and Proc. Manchester Lit. and Phil. Soc., 1898, vol. xlii, No. 4, p. 37, fig.