

of scales, but in lieu of these the surface of the skin is broken up into hexagonal or rectangular areae, separated from one another by dark lines, and covered with brilliant silvery pigment dashed with various shades of bronze, or green, or steel-blue. We have taken, in all, five or six species of these fishes in the net when dredging or trawling. They certainly, however, do not come from the bottom; it seems probable that they are caught in the net on its passage at some little distance below the surface, where there is reason to believe that there is a considerable development of a peculiar pelagic fauna.

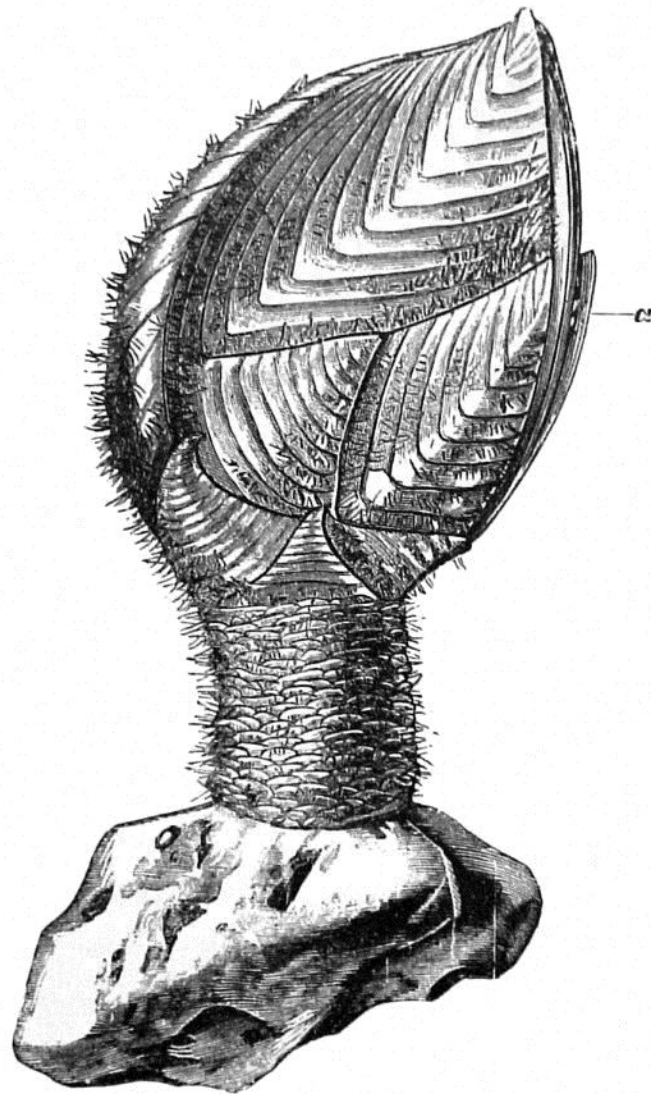


FIG. 2.—*Scalpellum regium*, WYVILLE THOMSON. Natural size. *a*. Males lodged within the edge of the scutum. (No. 63.)

On the 17th the trawl was lowered at seven in the morning, and in the afternoon a sounding was taken in 2850 fathoms.