

behind the anterior border of the ambulatory tract, and a little in advance of the posterior extremity of the body respectively. A slightly elevated pyramid of five very accurately fitting calcareous valves closes over the oral aperture and the ring of oral

tentacles; and a less regular valvular arrangement covers the vent.

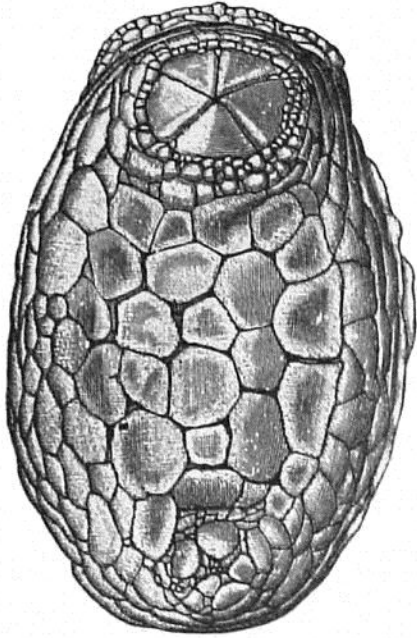


FIG. 39. — *Psolus ephippifer*, WYVILLE THOMSON. Corinthian Harbor, Heard Island. Three times the natural size.

On removing one or two of the central plates, we find that they are not, like the other plates of the perisom, imbedded partially or almost completely in the skin, but that they are raised up on a central column like a mushroom or a card-table, expanding above to the form of the exposed portion of the plate, contracting to a stem or neck, and then expanding again into an irregular foot, which is imbedded in the soft tissue of the perisom. The consequence of this arrangement is that when the plates are fitted together edge to edge, cloister-like spaces are left between their supporting columns. In these spaces the eggs are hatched, and the eggs or the young in their early stages are exposed by removing the plates (Fig. 40). At first, when there are only morules or very young embryos in the crypts, the marsupium is barely raised above the general surface of the perisom, and the plates of the marsupium fit accurately to one another; but as the embryos increase in size, the marsupium projects more and more, and at length the joints between the plates begin to open (Fig. 39), and finally they open sufficiently to allow the escape of the young. The young in one marsupium seem to be all