

Conchoderma.

1. Filaments attached to the pedicel of the second cirrus, capitulum with two tubular ear-like appendages, scuta bilobed, *Conchoderma auritum*, Linn., sp.
2. No filaments attached to the pedicel of the second cirrus, capitulum without tubular ear-like appendages, scuta three-lobed, *Conchoderma virgatum*, Spengler, sp.

Conchoderma virgatum, Spengler, sp.

Lepas virgata, Spengler, Skrifter Naturh. Selskab. I. 1790, Tab. vi. fig. 9.

Conchoderma virgata, Darwin, Lepadidæ, 1851, p. 146.

Of this species Darwin gives the following definition, which I think is quite sufficient to characterise it:—Scuta three-lobed; terga concave internally, with their apices slightly curved inwards; carina moderately developed, slightly curved; peduncle blending into the capitulum. No filament attached to the pedicel of the second cirrus.

I do not wish to add anything to the very detailed description which Darwin gives of this species. To make a comparison of this species with the variety *chelonophilus* possible, I made a preparation of the parts which constitute the mouth. Of the maxillæ Darwin says that they have five steps; sometimes each step commences with a spine rather larger than the others; at the upper angle there are two large unequal spines (neither pectinated), with a third, longer and thinner, situated a little below. That the large spines of the upper angle are not pectinated has been pointed out by Darwin, as it furnishes a remarkable difference from the spine of the maxilla of *Conchoderma auritum*. I am obliged, if not to deny the value of this characteristic, at least to diminish it. When studied with an ordinary pocket lens the same spine appears in *Conchoderma virgatum* to be distinctly pectinated near its base.

Two specimens of this species were taken from the screw of the Challenger at St. Vincent, Cape de Verdes, on the 25th April 1876, on the ship's voyage homeward. According to Darwin, the growth of this species is very rapid.

Conchoderma virgatum, var. *chelonophilus*, Leach (Pl. II. figs. 13–15).

Conchoderma virgata, var. *chelonophilus*, Leach, Darwin, Lepadidæ, 1851, p. 151.

Though the capitulum of this form differs considerably in appearance from that of the common *Conchoderma virgatum*, Darwin regards it only as a variety of that species. This he does because all parts of the animal, and especially the mouth and the cirri, are quite identical in the species *Conchoderma virgatum*, and in the present form. Perhaps, Darwin says, this variety may turn out to be a true species; but as our knowledge since Darwin published this supposition has been almost stationary, I think it safest to follow his example. However, I am willing to confess that, if no intermediate forms exist, in