

tion of such an appellation for a species of a genus nearly all of whose members are in some sense reticulated seemed absurd, and I consequently retained the Linnean appellation. The minute characters assigned to it in the "Catalogue" having to a great extent been adopted by others, it may perhaps be advisable not now to change the appellation, but to retain it for that particular member of the Linnean genus, as has been done by Prof. Smitt. As regards the specific appellation here adopted, and which I have ventured to propose for the large Mediterranean *Retepora*, though Dr. Solander's name "*foraminosa*" might perhaps have been employed, the doing so would have involved a good deal of confusion with other forms, whilst the term itself is objectionable on the same grounds as that of "*reticulata*." In order, therefore, to prevent confusion becoming worse confounded, I have thought it convenient to employ a name which could give rise to no ambiguity, and at the same time include a recognition of the merit of the eminent naturalist who first described the species.

But another consideration also arises with regard to this form, which appears to me to render it doubtful whether, after all, the Mediterranean and Atlantic species here described may not be merely a variety of *Retepora elongata* of d'Orbigny and of Smitt, an arctic form for which at one time I proposed the name of *Retepora wallichiana*. The points of agreement, at any rate, between *Retepora elongata* and *Retepora imperati* are apparently of greater importance than those in which they differ. For instance, they both agree in the absence of fissure or stigma on the front of the oecium, and in the want of any labial fissure or suboral pore, or any avicularian armature about the peristome, which in both

though wavy is quite entire and much raised on the sides so as to become canaliculate in the older zoecia, but is never thickened or fissured. The anterior rostriform avicularia are alike in both, though comparatively larger in the Mediterranean form. Both have the beak hooked like a parrot's and both have a very broad, lanceolate, or subtriangular curved-pointed mandible; and what is of great importance, the operculum in both is of the same peculiar conformation. In most species that I have had an opportunity of examining, the operculum is more or less semicircular or subcrescentic, consisting, in fact, mainly of a semicircular chitinous bow filled in by a thin membrane, the lower border being more or less simply membranous, whilst in *Retepora elongata* and

Retepora imperati, as in the three succeeding species belonging to the same subsection, it is of a suborbicular or elliptical form, bordered all round, except for a small space at the bottom, by a thick chitinous ring, as shown in the accompanying figures in which (B) represents the operculum of *Retepora elongata* from Spitzbergen, and (A) that

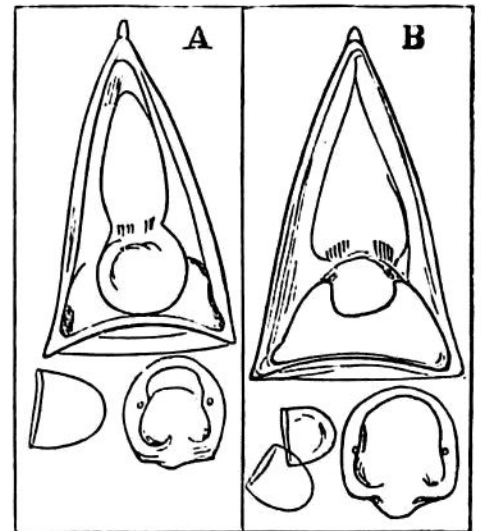


FIG. 19.
A, *R. imperati*.
B, *R. elongata*.