

posterior dorsal area channelled in each valve, and the dextral one overlaps the left posteriorly. All are more or less distinctly four-rayed, in some instances, as in *Venus magnifica* and *Venus reticulata*, only towards the umbones. After comparing closely these various forms, I am of opinion that no constant differences would be found whereby they might be separated if a very large series, say a thousand specimens from various localities, were studied. They appear to be races, just as the genus *Homo* is represented by numerous races. The typical *Venus puerpera* probably never attains the large size of the variety *Venus clathrata*, yet an intermediate is seen in *Venus listeri*, so that a large specimen of the latter and a small one of the former resemble one another, and in fact are the same species. The wider and more lamelliform ribs on the posterior side of *Venus listeri* vary considerably, and I do not consider this sufficient to mark that form as a distinct species, and it is even questionable whether *Venus multicostata*, Sowerby, from Panama, should be separated. The typical form of *Venus magnifica* is very remarkable on account of the purplish tone of its external colouring, which in itself is not a sufficient specific difference, seeing how variable this form is in this respect. The form of the shell may vary from nearly globular to transversely quadrate-ovate, and the pallial sinus is more acute in some specimens than others.

*Venus (Antigona) lamellaris* (Schumacher).

*Antigona lamellaris*, Schumacher, Essai, p. 155, pl. xiv. fig. 2.

*Dosina lamarckii*, Gray, Analyst, vol. viii. p. 308.

*Venus lamarckii*, Reeve, Conch. Icon., fig. 39, *a, b*.

*Venus lamarckii*, Pfeiffer, Conch.-Cab., ed. 2, p. 142, pl. viii. figs. 10, 11.

*Venus lamarckii*, Sowerby, Thesaurus, pl. cliii. figs. 20, 21.

*Venus subrostrata*, Wood, Ind. Test. Suppl., p. 58, pl. ii. fig. 7.

*Venus subrostrata*, Reeve, Conch. Syst., pl. lxviii. fig. 4.

*Venus nodulosa*, Sowerby, Thes. Conch., p. 708, pl. cliii. fig. 16.

*Habitat*.—Torres Strait, in 5 to 11 fathoms.

This species has also been recorded from Japan, China, and Wide Bay, East Australia.

*Venus (Anaitis) paphia*, Linné, var.

*Venus paphia*, Linné, Syst. Nat., ed. 12, p. 1129.

*Venus paphia*, Reeve, Conch. Syst., vol. i. pl. lxviii. fig. 1.

*Venus paphia*, Reeve, Conch. Icon., vol. xiv. pl. xix. fig. 89, and pl. xxiii. fig. 116*a* (as *Venus cypria*, Sowerby).

*Venus paphia*, Sowerby, Thes. Conch., p. 720, pl. clv. fig. 61.

*Venus paphia*, Pfeiffer, Conch.-Cab., ed. 2, p. 130, pl. vii. figs. 4–6.

*Venus paphia*, Carpenter, Report Moll. West Coast North America, 1864, p. 571.

*Habitat*.—St Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, in 7 to 20 fathoms (Challenger, and J. Macgillivray in Brit. Mus.).