

granulatis, undique instructa, striisque incrementi æqualiter confertis sculpta, epidermide fibrosa marginem versus induta. Area dorsalis angusta, haud profunda. Ligamentum lanceolatum, plerumque haud ante umbones productum. Pagina interna albida, fusco tineta, vel purpureo-fusca. Umbones paulo prominentes, incurvati, circiter in $\frac{1}{3}$ — $\frac{1}{4}$ longitudinis collocati.

Like many species of this genus, this is rather irregular in form, some specimens being longer in proportion than others, and rather different in outline. They are for the most part fairly convex, very inequilateral, rounded at the anterior end, and obliquely, but curvedly, truncate behind. The ventral margin is somewhat parallel with the hinge-line, at times exhibiting a slight median sinuation. The valves are not very solid, sculptured with very numerous radiating and concentric striæ, with very slender granular ridges or liræ between them, and clothed towards the outer margin with a brown fibrous epidermis. The colour is variable, some specimens being whitish and faintly tinted with pale brown, whilst others are more uniformly brown. The umbones are moderately prominent, about one and a half millimetres apart, and some distance in advance of the centre. The ligamental area is narrow, and only a little sunken, the ligament usually extending from the posterior end to a little behind the beaks, where it is truncated. The interior varies in colour from whitish, more or less stained with brown, to a uniform purple-brown. The hinge-teeth are small and numerous.

Length 31 mm., height 18, diameter 16.

Habitat.—Station 162, off East Moncœur Island, Bass Strait, in 38 fathoms (Challenger); Hudson's Bay, Port Philip, South Australia, attached to sea-weed, in $4\frac{1}{2}$ fathoms (Brit. Mus.).

The Challenger specimens and those in the British Museum from the latter locality are precisely similar in every respect, but differ slightly in one or two points from those in the Cumingian collection, also said to have come from Port Philip. These are much darker coloured within, which probably in this instance is not a very important distinction, as they appear to be slightly diseased, and the ligament extends somewhat in front of the umbones, whilst in the Challenger shells and the others from Port Philip it is suddenly truncated a little behind them. This, I think, is probably due to age, for the two types in Cuming's collection appear to be older shells than the others under examination, and the largest of the latter shows a slight tendency to prolong the ligament more forward than it is in younger specimens.

Notwithstanding these differences, I believe that they all belong to one and the same species. *Arca parva*, Sowerby, from Ducie's Island, is an allied form, differing in being a little narrower, more finely sculptured, and in having the umbones rather more remote from the centre.