

I do not know that it can fairly be separated from *Trochotoma*, Deslongchamps,¹ a Laissic and Jurassic fossil. That genus is indeed said to be nacreous, and the received distinction between *Pleurotomaria* and *Trochotoma* on the one hand, and *Scissurella* and *Schismope* on the other, is that the former are nacreous, which the two latter are not (see Tate, Appendix to Woodward's Manual, p. 38); but Dr Gwyn Jeffreys has broken down one-half of that distinction by showing (Brit. Conch., vol. iii. p. 282) that "the nacreous inner layer of *Schismope crispata* is very evident when the shell is broken or has been accidentally exfoliated." He does not, it is true, say this expressly of *Schismope*, but he classes it in the Family Scissurellidæ, one of the characters of which he states to be that the shells of that genus are "nacreous" (*loc. cit.*) I have not been able to establish the existence of this feature positively in *Schismope*, but the failure is very likely due to the thinness of the shells and the haste of a search to which much time could not be given.

Being thus in doubt, I have accepted the genus on the principle that it has as much right to exist as *Scissurella* has, and that while that genus may be distinguished from *Pleurotomaria* by size and colour, *Schismope* may be separated from *Trochotoma* by the same characters, though, as regards this last genus, the question of colour is somewhat more doubtful.

At one stage of its development the shell of *Schismope* resembles a young *Trochus*; somewhat later it is often indistinguishable from *Scissurella* except by the peculiar form of its umbilicus as shown in some of its species. In neither genus is the cut in the outer lip to be found in the young shell. Only after several whorls have been produced is the fissure formed; and the formation is effected, not by the absorption of shell already formed, but by the leaving of a cut in the fresh shell as it grows, the upper end of this rift being plugged up by degrees, so as to prevent its becoming unduly long. In *Scissurella* this process goes on so long as the shell growth continues. In *Schismope*, on the contrary, as the shell approaches maturity the front of the fissure is bridged across by a layer of shell, the lip edge thus becoming continuous, and the rift being transformed into a foramen. It is thus in the complete stage of the shell alone that the form of the lip-cut will serve to distinguish the two genera.

Species.

1. *Schismope tabulata*, n. sp.

2. *Schismope lacuniformis*, n. sp.

3. *Schismope carinata*, n. sp.

1. *Schismope tabulata*, n. sp. (Pl. VIII. fig. 7).

Station 24. March 25, 1873. Lat. 18° 38' 30" N., long. 65° 5' 30" W. Off Culebra Island, West Indies. 390 fathoms. Pteropod ooze.

Shell.—Obliquely discoidal, finely ribbed and spiralled, flattened above, with a very small slightly depressed apex, impressed suture, very large round mouth, large lacuniform umbilicus, and a last whorl carinated in its latter half by the prominent upstanding canal-

¹ This genus was published in 1841, and not, as is often asserted, in 1843. It is distinguishable from *Ditremaria*, D'Orb. (1843) = *Rimulus*, D'Orb. (1839), not *Rimula*, DeFr., by having only one small oval foramen instead of two united by an open canal.