

of *Buccinum* and *Cominella*; for, as in the latter, the nucleus is at the lower end, but it is not apical, but is within the edge towards the outer margin as in the former. H. 0·4 in. B. 0·18. Penultimate whorl, height 0·1. Mouth, height 0·19, breadth 0·11.

2. *Buccinum* (?) *aquilarum*,¹ Watson (Pl. XIII. fig. 4).

Buccinum (?) *aquilarum*, Watson, Prelim. Report, pt. 13, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. xvi. p. 359.

Station 78. July 10, 1873. Lat. 37° 26' N., long. 25° 13' W. Off San Miguel, Azores. 1000 fathoms. Volcanic mud.

Shell.—Small, thin, white, ventricose, biconical, oval, subscalar, with an oval, slightly oblique mouth, and a short canal. *Sculpture*: Longitudinals—on the upper whorls there are many feeble, close-set, straight riblets, which are very faint and merge into the lines of growth on the last whorl. Spirals—on the whole surface, are fine, rounded, spiral threadlets parted by shallow furrows which are broader than the ribs. *Colour* semi-transparent white, under a thin yellow membranaceous epidermis. *Spire* short, broad, conical, subscalar. *Apex* small, but rounded. *Whorls* 6, slightly flattened above; below this there is a very blunt angulation, and the lower part of each whorl is subcylindrical; the last whorl is ventricose, contracting on the base to a very short, rather lop-sided snout. *Suture* impressed. *Mouth* rather large, oval, rounded at the top, and prolonged below into an oblique, short, open canal. *Outer lip* thin, but not sharp, very bluntly angulated near the top, of regular curve, open, with a very slight basal cut at the point of the pillar. *Inner lip*: a thick layer of glaze, with a prominent edge continuous with the outer lip, runs down parallel to the belly-margin, and is cut off by the oblique canal at the point of the pillar, which is neither swollen nor thickened. H. 0·33 in. B. 0·21. Penultimate whorl, height 0·07. Mouth, height 0·22, breadth 0·13.

This is a perplexing form, in general aspect very like several of the *Admetes*. Than *Admete ovata*, E. Sm., from Japan, it is very much higher and more attenuated in the spire; than *Admete crispa*, Möller, it is much more tumid, and lower in the spire; than *Admete viridula*, Fabr., it is more delicately sculptured, is higher in the spire, and is of slower increase. The absence of the generic teeth on the pillar and the presence of the slight basal sinus are both features not without parallel in the genus *Admete*; but in all *Admetes*, so far as known to me, there is a varicose twist at the point of the pillar, between which and the edge of the inner lip lies a more or less distinct umbilical chink or furrow. In this Challenger shell there is no swelling whatever, and scarcely any twist even in the sculpture, and not the slightest approach to an umbilical chink. The absence of the varicose twist is, indeed, rather an objection to putting this species under *Buccinum*; but that genus already accommodates forms still more exceptional than the present one. *Volutharpa* is perhaps nearer; but I do not sufficiently know the limits of that genus to take liberties with it; the absence of an operculum, which seems its only positive claim to generic standing, is a feature out of recognition in the present case.

¹ Açor = (*vulgo*) eagle, whence the name of the islands.