

Compared with *Pleurotoma corpulenta*, Wats., this is a smaller, squatter shell, with a smaller and more scalar spire, whose outlines, too, are more concave; the body-whorl is much shorter and more tumid, and the base is much more contracted. From *Pleurotoma translucida*, Wats., it differs still more in these particulars. From both in its sculpture it is markedly distinct.

63. *Pleurotoma (Thesbia) membranacea*,<sup>1</sup> n. sp. (Pl. XXVI. fig. 9).

Station 168. July 8, 1874. Lat. 40° 28' S., long. 177° 43' E. Off New Zealand. 1100 fathoms. Blue mud. Bottom temperature 37°·2.

*Shell*.—Singularly unlike a *Pleurotoma*, being broad, short, tumid, and membranaceously thin; it has a short spire of few somewhat tumid whorls, which are parted by a slight horizontal suture; the surface is smooth and feebly spiralled; the colour white, under a thin brownish-yellow smooth persistent membranaceous epidermis; the base is long and gradually contracted, the snout broad and lop-sided; the sinus lies close up to the suture. *Sculpture*: Longitudinals—there are fine irregular unequal hair-like lines of growth, which are finely puckered below the suture. Spirals—the whole surface is scored by very slight remote impressed lines, and flat feeble threadlets, which are very irregular, and are interrupted at every biggish line of growth; just below the suture these are a little feebler, broader, and more regular than elsewhere. *Colour* white, under a brownish-yellow, smooth, glossy, thin, membranaceous epidermis; entirely translucent from the excessive thinness of the shell. *Spire* short-pointed, conical. *Apex* eroded but evidently small. *Whorls* 5 remaining; they are short, broadish, and a little tumid, convex, rounded, not keeled, not at all contracted below: the last is large, tumid, and elongated, being drawn out on the base, which is long and rounded; the snout is broad, but is somewhat broken. *Suture* linear and slight, but distinct in consequence of the junction of the whorls. *Mouth* semi-lunar, sharply angulated above and below. *Outer lip* very thin, regularly curved, with a deep wide sinus close up to the suture, whence the front edge of the shell makes a prodigious forward and downward sweep, and then retreats again to the point of the pillar. *Inner lip*: there does not seem to be even a glaze on the body; there above, the line is convex, but down the very slightly swollen pillar it runs direct but very obliquely to the left; the point of the pillar is not truncate, but the sharp edge runs out with a twist, and forms a sharp point at the end of the pillar; the broad open canal in front seems not to have been in the slightest degree emarginate. H. 0·87 in. B. 0·53. Penultimate whorl, height 0·17, breadth of first remaining whorl, 0·03. Mouth, height 0·62, breadth 0·28.

This and *Pleurotoma xanthias* have a strong general similarity, but differ in all details. There is nothing they so much resemble as *Clathurella pachia*; but that is a very much smaller form, more

<sup>1</sup> So called from its extreme thinness.