

gently convex, with acute cardinal extremities, and either gently rounded or nearly straight in front. Ventral valve rather deeper than the opposite one. Beak prominent, nearly straight, with a wide triangular area; foramen large, incomplete, margined laterally by narrow deltidial plates. Surface in each valve ornamented with about twelve rounded corresponding ribs, the two central ones generally deviating so as to admit a short, smaller one between them. Three or five sub-marginal septa, the three central ones being, at the same time, the largest and most prominent. The loop is composed of a single ribband-shaped lamella, which is first attached to the hinge-plate, and afterwards forms a semicircular curve, lying close to the bottom of the shell in the spaces intervening between the septa, to which it likewise adheres. Brachial appendages folded into two or four lobes, united by a membrane, forming a brachial disk, fringed with long cirri, mantle extending to the margins of the valves, closely adherent. Shell structure perforated by numerous canals. Length 5, width 0, depth 3 mm.

*Habitat.*—*Argiope decollata* was dredged alive in great abundance by the Challenger Expedition, at Gomera, off Teneriffe, adhering to *Megerlia truncata*, on February 10, 1873, in 70 or 75 fathoms.

Mr MacAndrew states that he obtained it off the Island of Madeira in 20 fathoms (Geog. Dist. of Tert. Mollusca, p. 39, 1854). Professor E. Forbes dredged it in 1841 in the Ægean Sea, in a range of from 27 to 110 fathoms (Report on the Mollusca and Radiata of the Ægean Sea, p. 141, 1844). Costa observes that it generally accompanies *Terebratulina caput-serpentis* in the Mediterranean, and occurs plentifully near the Islands of Capri, Ischia, Palmieri, and in the Gulf of Taranto. Jeffreys states that it is found at depths varying from 20 to 60 fathoms. Mr Fischer mentions, in the supplement to his paper on the Brachiopodes des Côtes Oceaniques de la France (Journal de Conchyliologie, 1871), that he dredged it off Cape Breton, in upwards of 45 fathoms. Dr Jeffreys quotes it from two miles east of Guernsey, in 18 fathoms. It has also been found in the Atlantic, coast of Spain, in 80 fathoms.

It abounds in the Pliocene deposits of Sicily, at Nice, and elsewhere, also in rocks of the Miocene group.

*Observations.*—Dr S. P. Woodward and myself were able to give the first description and illustration of the manner in which the loop and brachial appendages are arranged in this important genus and species (Annals and Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. iv., May 1852). Since then, Dr Gray has proposed to separate from the genus *Argiope* all those forms with a single sub-marginal septum, uniting them in the sub-genus *Cistella*. This view has since been adopted by the larger number of malacologists, but by so doing the genus *Argiope* would, up to the present time, be represented by the single species under description. Externally *Cistella barettiana*, Dav. = *Argiope antillarum*, Crosse, so completely resembles *Argiope decollata* that it would hardly be possible to distinguish it. In *Cistella neapolitana*, *Cistella cuneata*, *Cistella woodwardiana*, *Cistella schrammi*, and