

A few specimens only of this species were met with in a dredging from lat. 35° 39' S., long. 50° 47' W. Depth, 1900 fathoms.

[Pl. XXVII. fig. 4, *a-d*. *a* Shell seen from left side, *b* from above, *c* from below, *d* from front. Magnified 50 diameters.]

*Loxoconcha*, G. O. Sars.

*Loxoconcha*, Sars, Oversight, &c., 1865.

*Normania*, Brady, Trans. Zool. Soc., 1865.

Valves nearly equal, subrhomboidal, mostly flexuous in outline, and evenly convex. Surface smooth, or marked with concentrically arranged impressed puncta, or with polygonal fossæ, often also with minute circular papillæ. Ventral margins usually forming a prominent compressed keel towards the hinder extremity of the shell; postero-superior angle obliquely truncate. There is usually a prominent, shining tubercle over the anterior end of the hinge in each valve. Hinge-joint formed by two small teeth at the extremities of the hinge-line of each valve. Limbs of the animal slender and colourless. Anterior antennæ very slender, six-jointed, the last joint very long, linear, and bearing long, simple setæ; posterior antennæ four-jointed, the third joint long and narrow; flagellum long and biarticulate, mandible-palp three-jointed, bearing a distinct branchial appendage. Lowest seta of the branchial plate of the first pair of jaws deflexed. Feet long and slender, alike in male and female. Abdomen terminated by a hairy conical process; postabdominal lobes bearing two moderately long subequal setæ.

The "peach-stone" or obliquely quadrangular shape, and the bevelled-off postero-superior angle of the shell, are characters usually sufficiently pronounced to distinguish at a glance the members of this genus. The genus is cosmopolitan, and contains even now a considerable number of recent species, to which we may expect further research to add very largely. In gatherings from between tide marks or from very shallow water it will doubtless be found in greatest abundance. One British species, *Loxoconcha elliptica*, occurs only in the brackish water of estuaries and salt-marshes; and another, *Loxoconcha impressa*, has occasionally been found in fresh water altogether out of reach of the sea, and in such cases may probably be looked upon as a relic of some old marine fauna. There can be no doubt that the brackish and subbrackish waters of tropical and equatorial countries will some day yield an abundant and highly-interesting harvest to students of the Entomostraca.

Many fossil species described by authors under various generic terms—*Cythere*, *Cytherina*, *Bairdia*, &c.—belong by rights to *Loxoconcha*.

The difference in shape between males and females is strongly marked, the females being usually tumid, flexuous, and having all their angles, except the postero-superior, well-rounded off; the males more compressed, with a flatter dorsal margin, elongated and angular.