

The prenarial ridge may be slightly toothed or nearly smooth : it always ends, however, at the commencement of the median fissure, in a slightly raised prominence, divided into two lateral parts, in a way not seen amongst the Procellariidæ. (*Vide* Pl. II. fig. 19, giving an enlarged view of the palate of *Oceanites oceanicus*.)

*Pagodroma* resembles *Æstrelata*, but all the spines have become much smaller and weaker, and this is still more the case in *Daption*, where they have almost entirely disappeared save round the posterior nares. The line of the interior margins of the premaxillæ and of the palatines is marked by a distinct raised ridge, and the edges of the upper mandible, from the angle of the mouth as far forwards as the dertrum, are marked by a series of slight, closely-set, raised ridges, oblique forwards and outwards. It is by a great development of these that the peculiar fringed bill of the genus *Prion*, reminding one of that of a duck, is produced. In *Prion* (*t.c.*, fig. 23, *Prion banksii*) the palate is almost smooth throughout, with the exception of a distinct prenarial ridge, and some indications of the palatine series of spines posteriorly (not represented in the figure): the median fissure and narial opening are however, as usual, bounded by small spines. From a point corresponding to the angle of the mouth forwards to a little behind where the dertrum forms the cutting edge of the bill, the margins of the mouth are bounded by a well-developed fringe of closely-set lamellæ, reminding one much of the plates of a whale's baleen. These lamellæ are developed from the mucous membrane of the mouth, and are probably entirely epidermic in origin; in the cleaned skull there is no trace of their presence (*vide* Pl. VI. fig. 4). They are best developed a little way in front of their posterior termination of the fringe; here the lamellæ are nearly vertical thin plates, set on at right angles to the axis of the beak, but curved both forwards and outwards. Anteriorly they become more oblique forwards, and much shorter. Outside of them the cutting edge of the beak is produced downwards for a little way, so that a groove is formed between the beak and the pectinated fringe.

When the lower bill is in position, the more posterior and strongest of the lamellæ completely occupy the slight space left between the cutting edge of the two jaws, lying with their free ends curved outwards in a slight groove outside the lower mandible formed by the reflection from it of the feather-covered skin. Anteriorly this groove disappears, and the fringe simply lies against the outer surface—which is quite smooth, and not, like that of the duck or flamingo, correspondingly grooved for the reception of the lamellæ of the fringe—of the lower jaw, which in front it does not even reach. In the larger-billed *Prion vittatus* these lamellæ are even more developed, whilst in the smaller-billed *Prion desolatus* they are less so: *Prion banksii* is so completely intermediate in this respect that I see no reason for the adoption of Dr. Coues' genus *Pseudoprion*.<sup>1</sup> The only other

<sup>1</sup> Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Phil., 1866, p. 164, where that writer has also described the structure of these fringes at length.