

*Æstrelata mollis* is quite similar, except that the box is composed of one ring less.<sup>1</sup>

In *Diomedea brachyura* and *exulans* the calibre of the trachea diminishes very considerably below the place of insertion of the *sterno-tracheales*. The syrinx (figs. 29, 30) is strong and well ossified. The fifth bronchial semi-rings on which end the fanned-out tendinous insertions of the intrinsic muscles are strong and much arched. The four preceding bronchial rings, as well as the last tracheal, are ossified anteriorly and posteriorly, and (with the exception in *Diomedea exulans* of the fourth bronchial) co-ossified anteriorly into a strong box, with which the penultimate tracheal ring is also connected in the middle line. Behind, the last two tracheal and first bronchial rings are co-ossified forming a broadly triangular pessular bar or box, whilst one or more (5) of the preceding tracheal rings have patches of ossification mesially.

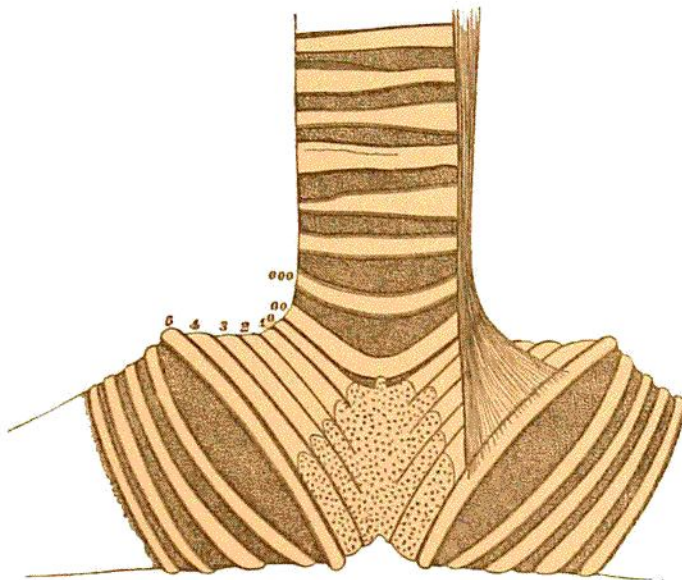


FIG. 29.—Syrinx of *Diomedea exulans*, from before.  
About natural size.

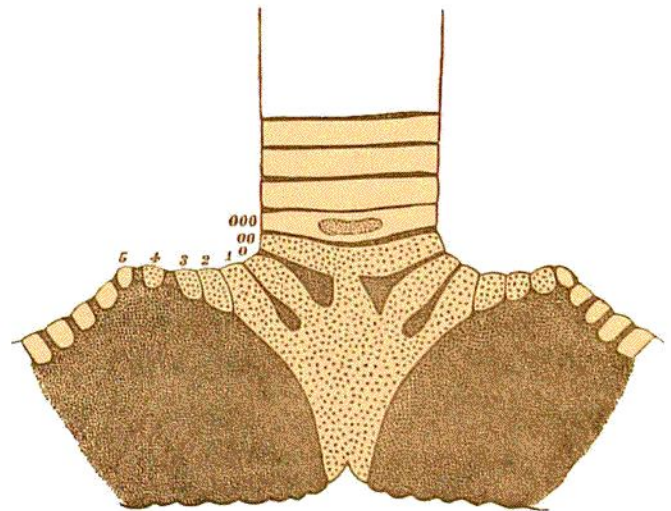


FIG. 30.—The same, from behind.  
About natural size.

In *Thalassiarche culminata* (of which I have only examined one) all the five bronchial rings, including the muscular one, are firmly co-ossified together, and free from the rest. There is no complete pessulus, the bony box formed by the rings terminating posteriorly in a straight and free margin, which a cuneate bar, formed by the inturned anterior ends of the fourth bronchial rings, does not reach. The syrinx of *Phæbetria* as yet I only know from a young specimen, in which the bronchial rings below the first are incomplete anteriorly, whilst behind there is a box formed by the last two tracheal and first four bronchial rings.

*Majaqueus* is very like *Diomedea* in its syrinx, the penultimate tracheal ring, however, being ossified anteriorly, as well as its five successors, which remain free in

<sup>1</sup> I regret not having as yet been able to examine any adult bird of *Æstrelata brevirostris*, all my specimens being young and consequently with the tracheal rings unossified and generally distinct. There is a box formed by the fusion behind of at least three of the bronchial rings with the last, or two last tracheal ones. The second, third, and fourth bronchial rings are united together anteriorly, the third rings joining the pessular bar.