

Daption) on the one hand, and with the Fulmars on the other, *Aeipetes*¹ being the less specialised of these, both as regards its imperfect tracheal septum, and the number of rectrices. The type of syrinx so characteristic of the Fulmars is foreshadowed, as it were, as has been already pointed out (*supra*, p. 35) in that of *Pagodroma*, and all four genera (*Fulmarus*, *Thalassæca*, *Ossifraga*, and *Aeipetes*) agree in the general disposition of the *tensor patagii*, which has no ossicles, in the more or less rudimentary *os uncinatum* in the tendency to ankylosis of the lachrymal and frontal, in the shape of the tongue and of more or less well-developed lamellæ on the bill, and in having four more or less complete, but never deep, sternal emarginations.

Aeipetes is, on the whole, the least specialised of the Fulmarine group in the most limited sense. This includes besides *Thalassæca*, *Fulmarus*, and *Ossifraga*, which last,

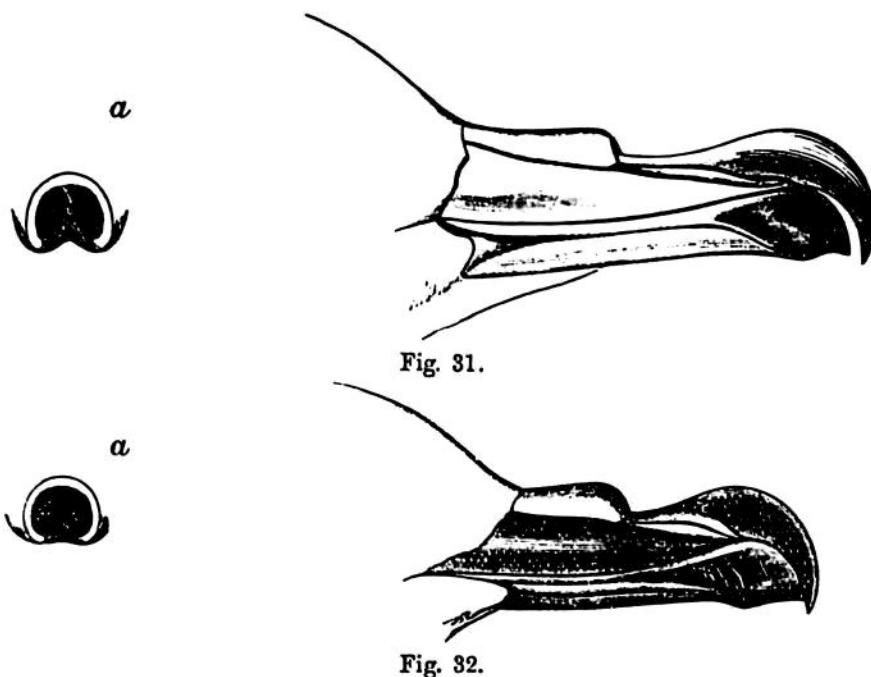


FIG. 31.—Beak of *Thalassæca glacialis*. a. The aperture of the nasal tubes, from in front. Natural size.

FIG. 32.—The same parts of *Aeipetes antarcticus*.

on account of its great size, peculiar syrinx, and sixteen rectrices, may be considered the culminating point in this direction of the Procellariidæ.

The remaining genera, *Æstrelata*, *Puffinus*, *Adamastor*, *Majaqueus*, and *Bulweria* are also apparently closely related to each other, the first and last named being perhaps

¹ I propose to make a genus under this name, for the reception of the *Procellaria antarctica* of Gmelin (*Syst. Nat.*, 1788, vol. i. p. 565), which has usually been considered congeneric with *Thalassæca*, the type (and only representative) of which is *Thalassæca glacialis*. For the latter bird also was instituted Hombron and Jacquinot's genus *Priocella* (*s.c.*, vol. iii. p. 148). *Aeipetes* is easily distinguishable from *Thalassæca* by the much shorter and stouter bill, and differently shaped nasal tubes, as will be best understood from the accompanying figures (figs. 31, 32). The number of rectrices is also different (twelve as compared to fourteen); the tracheal septum is incomplete, and the structure of the syrinx also quite different (*vide supra*, p. 37). The coloration of the two forms is quite unlike.