

in the left, with generally, especially in young shells, a second very small oblique slender one posterior to the other. The ligament-plates (nymphæ) are moderately developed and more or less obliquely roughly striate, and somewhat grooved lengthways. From this description it will be seen that the hinge of this species coincides exactly with that of *Psammobia*. The pallial sinus is very deep, reaching almost to the anterior scar. *Tellina silicula*, Deshayes, and *Tellina compta*, Gould, are absolutely identical in every respect, and are more closely and more obliquely striated than some other forms of the species. *Tellina pura*, H. Adams, and *Tellina bifaria*, Baird, agree with one another in colour, lacking the rosy rays of the two above mentioned varieties.

The distribution of this pretty shell is as extended as its colour is variable. It has already been recorded from the Philippine and Mariana Islands, New Caledonia, and the Gulf of Suez, and in the British Museum there are specimens from the Keeling and Fiji Islands, and also Madagascar.

*Tellina (Arcopagia) pretiosa*, Deshayes.

*Tellina pretiosa*, Deshayes, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1854, p. 360.

*Tellina pretiosa*, Sowerby, Conch. Icon., vol. xvii. fig. 329.

*Tellina costata*, Sowerby, *loc. cit.*, fig. 194.

*Habitat*.—Levuka, Fiji Islands, in shallow water (Challenger); Island of Ovalau, Fiji, in 12 fathoms, sandy bottom (Brit. Mus.); Philippine Islands.

There is no likelihood of this charming species being confounded with any other. It is well distinguished from all others by the beautifully squamate costellæ which adorn the surface. These are somewhat variable in number and thickness, those (about forty) in the type from the Philippine Islands being a little stouter and less numerous than those of Fiji examples, the latter, in this respect, agreeing perfectly with the shell figured by Sowerby as *Tellina costata*. Between these radiating ridges are very fine concentric thread-like liræ, which pass up the sides of the former, and on the top are produced into scale-like processes, so that the valves, especially near the umbones, have a cancellated aspect. The colour is grey-white, varied with an opaque-white short ray at the apex of the beaks. The interior is either pure white or faintly tinged with yellow at the upper part. The texture of the shell is thin, so that the cancellated character of the external ornamentation is distinctly visible within. The lateral teeth are rather strongly developed on each side in both valves, each also having two cardinals. In the right the posterior tooth is twice as large as the anterior, and is bifid, as is also the front one in the left valve, in which the hinder tooth is inconspicuous in comparison with the rest. The pallial sinus is not very large, extending only a little beyond the middle of the valves. The outline at first ascends on leaving the scar, then descends obliquely, and finally slants backwards, forming rounded angles where the direction changes.

The largest specimen is 17 mm. long, 12½ high, and 6½ in diameter.