

3. *Bembix*,¹ Watson, 1878.

Bembix, Watson, Prelim. Report, pt. 3, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. xiv. p. 603.

Shell.—Conical, high, carinated, tumid on the base, umbilicated, thin, nacreous, covered with a thin membranaceous epidermis. *Operculum* membranaceous and multispiral.

A remarkable feature of this genus is its being covered with a thin, extremely persistent, smooth, fibrous epidermis, like that of some of the *Heliccs*. This epidermis swells up and becomes pustulated in water. In form the shell recalls some of the *Cantharidus* group, but is thinner and on the base more tumid; the axis is perforated, and the pillar is thin, reverted, and merely angulated in front. [A larger specimen has at the last moment come into my hands. It is that referred to by Dr Hoek (Cirripedia, Zool. Chall. Exp., pt. xxv. p. 68), and very roughly outlined on pl. iii. figs. 9, 10. From this specimen the operculum has been described. The basal threads of the shell are somewhat more numerous than I have described them, and the umbilicus is covered, a mere chink alone remaining.] As to the name of the genus, I think the only objection that can be taken to it is that Philippi proposed the name *Bembicium* for one of the genera of Litorinidæ, but afterwards himself withdrew it for the prior name of *Risella*, Gray.

Bembix æola,² Watson (Pl. VII. fig. 13).

Bembix æola, Watson, Prelim. Report, pt. 3, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. xiv. p. 603. §

Station 232. May 12, 1875. Lat. 35° 11' N., long. 139° 28' E. Inosima, Japan. 345 fathoms. Green mud.

Station 235. June 4, 1875. Lat. 34° 7' N., long. 138° E. Off Japan. 565 fathoms. Green mud. Bottom temperature 38° 1.

Shell.—High, concavely conical, carinated, sculptured on the upper whorls, smooth or wrinkled below, thin, with a tumid lirated base, narrowly umbilicated, with a smooth epidermis, thin, but especially so on the base. More or less nacreous all over under a thin porcellanous upper layer. *Sculpture*: The first three whorls (after the embryonic apex) are reticulated by three sharp remote spirals, and rather stronger, slightly oblique longitudinals, which rise at their intersection into small sharp pyramidal tubercles; the interstices are a little broader than high. This system gradually dies out and leaves the surface smooth, only the row of infra-sutural tubercles survives in an enlarged but depressed form, and springing from these some sinuous, oblique, and slightly irregular longitudinal puckerings appear on the last whorl, which is nearly bisected by the sharpish, slightly expressed, finely tubercled carina. This bisection of the last whorl arises from the great prolongation and tumidity of the base, on which, below the carina, are five narrow, equally parted, spiral threads, and two intra-umbilical ones, which are more continuous. Besides this larger system of sculpture, the whole surface is covered with minute, oblique, irregular, and interrupted puckerings of the epidermis. *Colour* a brownish yellow, but below the

¹ βίμβιξ, a top.

² αἰόλος, variegated.