

below which the narrow umbilical furrow cuts deeply into the thickness of the pillar, whose edge is bevelled off from without and from within; towards its point the pillar is thickened by the feeble circumumbilical carina, which is rather suddenly developed and made distinct at this point. *Umbilicus* consists only of the channel or gutter, which twists round the pillar callus and disappears behind it. H. 0·327 in. B. 0·36. Penultimate whorl, height 0·075. Mouth, height 0·29, breadth 0·16.

Brazier, in the "Chevert" Exped. Marine Shells (Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales, 1877, vol. i. p. 237) gives what is, I suppose, this species under the name of *Lunatia variabilis*, Recluz, and ascribes as its habitat North and North-East Australia and New Caledonia, 5 to 30 fathoms. In the British Museum there is a *Natica* presented by McAndrew, and in his handwriting and initialed by him it is attested to come from Suez; probably it was his own dredging there (see his Report on Suez Dredgings, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1870, vol. vi. p. 437). It bears the name *Natica marmorata*, H. Adams.¹ With that shell the Challenger species described above is identical. But *Natica marmorata*, H. Adams (Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1869, p. 274, pl. xix. fig. 8), is certainly a mere synonym for *Natica variabilis*, Recl.; and consequently the present species, which has hitherto passed for Adams's *Natica marmorata*, requires both an individual name and a description, for it is beyond doubt distinct, though at first sight deceptively like, and, indeed, from this very fact the name proposed for it is borrowed.

Compared with *Natica variabilis*, Recl., *Natica pseustes* is a broader and flatter shell, with a more depressed spire; the apex is blunter, the embryonic whorls are $2\frac{1}{4}$ instead of 3, and are larger. Its coloration is very like that of *Natica variabilis*, especially in the white band with large chestnut spots below the suture; but it has these spots less confluent, more ruddy, and there is none of the purple tinge on the spire which is traceable in that other. The coloured ornamentation in *Natica pseustes* is a distinct network of minute, sharply defined, delicate lines, amidst which occur two or three spiral zones of lanceolate white spots where the brown lines are fewer. In *Natica variabilis*, on the other hand, this coloured ornamentation is rather a mass of confused blotchy stains, with one or two spirals of brown arrow-heads parted by little white dots. There are very many other minute differences; but perhaps the best distinctive feature of all is that, when looked at perpendicularly to the centre of its axis, with the shell on its mouth and the base toward the observer, the oblique line of the base is in *Natica pseustes* quite continuous and unbroken, while in *Natica variabilis* in all stages of growth this basal line is abruptly interrupted by the projection of the pillar and the sweep of the basal lip.

As this sheet is passing through my hands for final revision, I have been enabled, through the kindness of Mr Alfred Hands Cooke, M.A., curator in Zool. Mus. Cambridge, to examine McAndrew's own specimens, dredged by himself, and marked "*Natica marmorata*, H. Ad., Gulf of Suez." Several of these specimens retain their operculum, which is so absolutely identical with the operculum of *Natica variabilis*, Recl., from Madeira and Tenerifè, that my estimate of the distinctness of the two species is very much shaken.

17. *Natica xantha*,² Watson (Pl. XXVII. fig. 8).

Natica xantha, Watson, Prelim. Report, pt. 7, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. xv. p. 262.

Station 150. February 2, 1874. Lat. 52° 4' S., long. 71° 22' E. Between Kerguelen and Heard Island. 150 fathoms. Coarse gravel. Bottom temperature 35°·2.

¹ McAndrew in his Report (*loc. cit.*) gives "H. Adams" as his authority for this identification, but adds that "Mörch questions the species being identical." The identification being erroneous, McAndrew's citation of the Canaries for the Suez species must be suppressed.

² ξανθὸς, yellow.