

16. *Bittium delicatum*, Watson (Pl. XLI. fig. 5).

Cerithium (Bittium) delicatum, Watson, Prelim. Report, pt. 5, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond., vol. xv. p. 120, sp. 20.

Station 135c. October 17, 1873. Nightingale Island, Tristan da Cunha Islands. 100 to 150 fathoms.

Shell.—Small, narrow, conical, blunt, rather tumid on the base, ribbed but not reticulated, thin, translucent, glossy, white, with slightly convex outlines. *Sculpture*: Longitudinals—there are on each whorl about 17 narrow, straight, rather tumid ribs, parted by furrows of about the same breadth. These ribs run straight down the spire, but are on the body-whorl slightly oblique. This whole system of ribs and furrows ceases abruptly at the edge of the base through a levelling up of the surface. There are many microscopic rounded lines, which are most distinct in the furrows, but especially on the base. Spirals—there are faint and minute spiral threads, best seen near the suture; and there are also indistinct close-set microscopic threads. The top of the pillar is encircled by a minute sharp thread, which is the scar of the siphonal cut. *Colour* clear, translucent, and glossy white. *Spire* high, narrow, with slightly convex outlines, which are strongly impressed at the suture. *Apex* rather abrupt, blunt and rounded; the extreme point hardly rises above the general curve. *Whorls* 9, rounded, but a little flattened on the sides, and constricted at the top and bottom of each; they are of slow and regular increase; the last is a little larger in proportion than the rest. The base is rounded and a little tumid. *Suture* a minute line lying in a deep, open, and rounded depression. *Mouth* bluntly pointed above, with a rather broad rounded opening for the canal at the side of and behind the pillar. *Outer lip* rounded, slightly incurved above, patulous and projecting on the base, slightly retreating towards the canal, the edge of which is straight all round. *Pillar* rather short, but not stumpy, scarcely at all twisted, and very little truncated, the end being very much rounded, though there is a slight point on the left side. *Inner lip*: there is a very thin glaze on the body, which runs straight out on the pillar with a thinnish, but distinct edge. H. 0.133 in. B. 0.04. Penultimate whorl, height 0.02. Mouth, height 0.03, breadth 0.019.

In many of its features this shell is like a minute *Terebra*, but the form of the whorls rather suggests *Bittium*. Unfortunately the canal is slightly chipped. It is much smaller than *Cerithiopsis costulata* (Möller); the ribs, too, are much smaller, and the apex is more turbinate. Than *Cerithium naiadis*, Woodward,¹ this species is much slimmer, and has not the well-marked spirals.

¹ Dr Gwyn Jeffreys assures me this species of Woodward is really the same as the *Cerithiopsis costulata* (Möller). Not having opportunity now of comparing them, I state the fact on his authority.