

Atlantic, coasts of France, of the Antilles, and of Africa, Mediterranean (d'Orbigny); Gorée, Senegal (W. E. H.), Messina (Targioni-Tozzetti).

A small specimen obtained at the above locality seems to be properly referable to this species, although certainty is impossible in the case of so immature a creature.

I do not propose here to discuss the question how far this species is removed from *Octopus vulgaris*, but it seems to me that they are rather further apart than would be expressed by ranking them as varieties.

Whether *Octopus ruber*, Rafinesque,¹ be identical with this is still more uncertain, the definition of that author being as unsatisfactory as usual. Moreover, his species has been regarded as identical with *Octopus macropus*, Risso, and having regard merely to the colour, which is the character emphasised by Rafinesque's name, this would seem likely; it is to be noted, however, that the arms of *Octopus macropus* very greatly exceed the length mentioned by Rafinesque ("environ le double du corps").

Octopus verrucosus, Hoyle (Pl. IV.).

1885. *Octopus verrucosus*, Hoyle, Diagnoses I., p. 222.

1885. " " Hoyle, Prelim. Rep. I., p. 96.

Habitat.—Inaccessible Island, Tristan da Cunha, October 16, 1873. Two specimens, ♂.

The Body is rounded, but so distorted by compression that no further details can be given. The *mantle-opening* extends fully halfway round the body, terminating a little below and behind the eye. The *siphon* is long, evenly conical and pointed, and extends nearly halfway to the umbrella-margin.

The Head is short, not so broad as the body, and with *eyes* but slightly prominent.

The Arms are unequal in length, the second pair being considerably the longest, and almost six times as long as the body; they are comparatively stout, and taper gradually. The *umbrella* extends about one-fifth up the longest arms. The *suckers* are fairly close, deeply cupped and marked with radial grooves (fig. 2), between which are numerous very minute papillæ (fig. 3). About four suckers on each lateral arm, opposite the umbrella-margin, are larger than the others;² beyond these they gradually diminish. The extremity of the *hectocotylised arm* resembles that of *Octopus vulgaris*, but is very minute (about 2 mm. long in the larger specimen); it is acutely pointed, and the median groove has three transverse ridges.

The Surface of the back, dorsal surface of the head, and umbrella is covered with irregular closely-set warts, which attain a maximum diameter of several millimetres in

¹ Précis découv. semiol., p. 28.

² This is a sexual character, as is clearly shown by the analogy of numerous other species.