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ART. VIII. *Description of some new and rare Shells.* By
W. J. BRODERIP, Esq. Sec. G.S., F.L., & H.S.

VOLUTA DUBIA.—*Fig-like Volute.*

V. testâ fusiformi, longitudinaliter sub-costatâ, transversim striatâ, flavicante, maculis fulvis, sub-quadratis, interruptis multifasciatâ; spirâ brevi, apice rudi, acuto-papillari; columellâ levisimè buplicatâ, basi integrâ. Long. $2\frac{1}{2}$ unc.

Mus. Princip. Massenæ.

Habitat?

Icon. Tab. 3. fig. 1.

Shell fusiform, slightly ribbed, longitudinally and transversely striated, yellowish, with many bands of interrupted, somewhat square, fulvous spots; spire short, apex rude, with the papilla terminating almost acutely; the pillar very slightly marked with two plaits, and the base entire. Length $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

This shell is one of those forms which convince us of the vanity of our artificial distinctions. When viewed from above it seems as if the spire of a *Voluta* were placed on the body-whorl of one of those *Pyrulæ*, which are commonly known by the name of *Figs*. Turn it, and the difficulty of classing the shell is rather increased; for the aperture is still Fig-like, and it requires an accurate examination to detect the two almost imperceptible plaits on the columella. The apex indeed, uncouth as it is, shews more like that of a *Voluta* than of any other shell, and it is utterly different from that of a *Pyrula*. Place it among the Volutes, and it will be found to approach nearest to *V. rupestris*: though one cannot but suspect that there are yet in the bosom of the deep many gradations of form between them. It is evidently a marine shell, and its locality does not appear to be known. There is, I believe, one specimen in the cabinet of Prince Massena. For the second known specimen, from which this figure and description were taken, I am indebted to M. Roussell. The shell is evidently faded.

VOLUTA MULTI-COSTATA.—*Many-ribbed Volute*.*

V. testâ ovato-fusiformi, longitudinaliter multi-costatâ, flavo-fulgente, maculis nigricantibus, et lineolis nigro-spadiceis, frequentibus, transversis ornatâ; spirâ mediocri, apice acuto-papillato, columellâ multiplicatâ, plicis ultimis maximis; basi corrugata emarginatâ. Long. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ unc.

Mus. nost.

Habitat?

Icon. Tab. 3. fig. 2.

Shell ovately fusiform, with many longitudinal ribs, yellow with numerous blackish irregular spots and transverse brownish-chestnut lineations; body-whorl corrugated at the base, which is emarginate; spire moderate, apex acutely papillary; pillar multi-plaited, the three last plaits being the largest. Length 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ in.

This pretty and interesting shell, of which I have seen only one other specimen, appears to form one of the beautiful gradations from those *Volutes*, which are popularly called *Musics*, to those which it is my intention to designate by the term *Mitriform*, from their very near approach to the *Mitres*. In *V. multi-costata*, the upper plaits of the pillar are no longer strongly developed, the spire is beginning to lengthen, and the apex is becoming almost that of a mitre. Its locality is unknown.

* Some parts of Lamarck's description of *V. mitriformis* will apply to this shell: others will not. Neither in the Monograph in the "Annales du Muséum," nor in the "Animaux sans Vertèbres," is there a reference to a figure. The words "ornées de lineoles *rousses* transverses et de taches *rouge-brun* sur un fond blanchâtre," and "lineoles *rougeâtres*," do not convey the idea of the almost black colouring of our shell, while they are not inapplicable to the small specimen of *V. costata* (Swainson, Journ. of Science, vol. xvii. p. 3). Lamarck describes his shell from a specimen in his own museum. Should it prove to be his *mitriformis*, (and I am not at all sure it is not,) the name above given to it must be cancelled. The back of the shell is very dark.

VOLUTA LYRIFORMIS.—*Harp Volute.*

(MITRA LYRÆFORMIS. Swainson.)

V. testâ valdè fusiformi, longitudinaliter multi-costatâ, costis interstitiisque longitudinaliter striatis, carneâ, ultimo anfractu trifasciato, fasciis subcæruleis, maculis spadiceis interruptis superpositis, anfractibus cæteris eodem modo suturas versus bifasciatis; costis lineatis, lineolis rubro-spadiceis, transversis; spirâ valdè productâ, sub-attenuatâ, apice acuto-papillari; columellâ multiplicatâ, plicis ultimis maximis; basi corrugatâ, emarginatâ. Long. $3\frac{1}{2}$ unc.

Mus. nost.

Habitat?

Icon. Swainson, Zool. Illust. tab. 54. Tab. nost. 3. fig. 3.

Shell very fusiform, with many longitudinal ribs, which together with the interstices are striated longitudinally, flesh-coloured, the body whorl (which is corrugated at the emarginate base,) with three bluish bands ornamented with interrupted dark chesnut spots; the other whorls with two similar bands placed near the sutures; the ribs marked with regular transverse lines of a reddish chesnut; spire very much produced and rather attenuated, the apex acutely papillary; pillar with many plaits, the two last being much the largest.

The nearest approach to the Mitres is, perhaps, to be found in this rare shell figured by my friend, Mr. Swainson, in his Zoological Illustrations, under the name of *Mitra lyræformis*. Indeed he says, and there is no one more competent to speak on the subject, "It connects in the most beautiful manner the two genera of *Mitra* and *Voluta*." I should be diffident of describing this shell, after one so eminently qualified to enlighten every subject of Natural History which he approaches, were it not that the specimen from which he took his description, must have been originally poor and had certainly suffered subsequently from an "unmerciful cleaning;" so that he had not a fair opportunity of describing its characters. He has published this shell as a *Mitra*. The last plaits of the pillar, which are the largest, point out the

shell to be a *Voluta*. He has observed this to me, and as I believe that the observation has not been publicly made by him, I wish it to be understood that the correction is not mine but his own. I owe the possession of the very fine specimen, from which the accompanying figure and present description are taken, to Captain Marryat, R.N., who brought it to this country: nor do I know of any other, save that from which Mr. Swainson designed his plate. The locality of the shell does not appear to be accurately known.

CYPRÆA NIVOSA.—*Snow-flecked Cowry*.

C. testâ ovatâ, sub-ventricosâ, fuscâ, guttis punctisque albis adpersâ, subtus subalbidâ; lineâ dorsali ad latus dextrum approximante pallidâ, undulatâ.

Mus. nost.

Habitat?

Icon. Tab. 4. fig. 1.

Shell oval, rather ventricose, above brownish, flecked and dotted with white, pearl-coloured below; the dorsal line pale, undulated and approaching to the right side.

A shell at first sight bearing some resemblance to *C. Vitellus*, but which on a nearer inspection, will be found to differ materially from it, both in form and colouring. *C. nivosa* is less ventricose than *C. Vitellus*, and its dorsal line, which approaches the right side, reminds the observer of *C. Mappa*, though it is not so much branched. I am indebted to the liberality of Captain Marryat, R.N., for the addition of this shell to my cabinet. Its locality does not appear to be known.

CYPRÆA RUGOSA.

C. testâ ovato-globosâ; dorso gibbo; ventre, labio, marginibusque valdè rugosis.

Habitat? fossilis.

Icon. Tab. 4. fig. 2.

Shell ovately-globose, gibbous; the ventral disc, lip and margins very deeply wrinkled.

This fossil, which Mr. G. B. Sowerby, (who was struck with its general resemblance to my specimen of *C. guttata*,) was kind enough to send to me, was found in the *Superga*, near Turin? * It appears to have suffered from pressure and fracture, which may have added to the gibbosity of the back; but still, though the likeness is great, it does not appear to me to be identical with *C. guttata*. The ventral disc of the latter, though corrugated as strongly as that of *C. rugosa* at the extremities, is comparatively smooth in the middle, and there the rugosities scarcely appear, excepting towards the mouth of the shell, where they again become strongly marked. The rugosities of the ventral disc of *C. rugosa* furrow the whole of that disc, and are rather strongest in the middle of it. With this exception, the *rugæ* on the disc, lip and margins of both shells offer the strongest similarity. The fossil appears much more gibbous than the recent shell above-mentioned.

ART. IX. *On the occurrence of some rare British Birds.*
By WILLIAM YARRELL, Esq. F.L.S.

[To the Conductors of the Zoological Journal.]

GENTLEMEN,

Your liberal insertion of my former notice of the occurrence of some rare British Birds, has induced me to forward you the following particulars on the same subject, which I have been enabled to collect within the last four months.

Parus biarmicus, Linn. Two nests and the eggs of the Bearded Tit were this year forwarded to London. They were

* I judge this to be the fact, from having observed it to be filled with the grains which so eminently characterize the fossils of that locality. The only specimen I have seen I found among some fossils in the Collection of Mr. G. Humphrey. The best account of this mountain and its formations is to be found in Brongniart's *Mem. sur les Terrains de sediment superieurs calcareo-trappéens du Vicentin*. p. 27. He has not, however, noticed this species.

G. B. S.

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