

NOTES ON SOME AUSTRALIAN CASSIS.

BY

CHARLES HEDLEY.

(Plate viii.)

On their recent visit to Western Australia the Museum representatives received from Mr. J. Stow a specimen of *Cassis bicarinata* from Middle Island, Recherche Archipelago. Mr. A. S. Faulkner kindly presented a specimen of *Cassis fimbriata* from King George Sound. This localised and contrasted material, supported by other in the Museum collection, indicate that *C. bicarinata*, instead of being regarded as synonymous with *C. fimbriata* as it usually is, should be held apart.

The history of *C. fimbriata* is rather obscure. Doctors Quoy and Gaimard forgot the locality of the two specimens they had collected during the voyage of the "Astrolabe," but supposed that it was either the Marianne or the Caroline Group.¹

They remarked that specimens labelled "frangé" were already in the Paris Museum from the expedition commanded by Capt. Baudin. Baudin's ships visited the area inhabited by *C. bicarinata*, but the "Astrolabe" did not do so. Specimens before me from Albany, Western Australia (a collecting station of both French expeditions) correspond closely to the "Astrolabe" figures, and indicate that Western Australia, and not the Carolines or the Mariannes, is the home of *C. fimbriata*. Regarding as typical the shells that match the drawings, an immature stage of a length of 60 mm. has four and a half whorls plus the protoconch. Between the last two varices and along the angle of the shoulder is a row of fourteen projections set like the teeth of a cog wheel. Anterior to this is a second row with the tubercles fewer and farther apart; these are not united in a common base, as in the figure. As shown in profile by the "Astrolabe" figure,² there is a third row, of incipient tubercles arranged at a distance equal to the space between the other rows. The whole dorsal surface is plicated by about thirty-five longitudinal folds. On the anterior half of the last and on the summits of all whorls, these folds are traversed by fine spiral grooves. A narrow broken thread of amber-brown runs along the summit of each row of tubercles, two such run between the rows, and three or four on the anterior region. The ventral surface is overlaid by a dense sheet of callus, through which appear the brown spirals of the previous whorl. At the exterior base of the columella are from three to five short transverse ridges. The

¹ Quoy et Gaimard—Voy. Astrolabe Zool. ii, 1833, p. 596, pl. xliii, fig. 7, 8. Kuster, Conch. Cab., 1857, p. 28, pl. xlvii, figs. 1-2. Hidalgo (Cat. Moll. Test Filip. and Marianas, 1905, p. 156) definitely rejects the Marianne habitat.

² Quoy et Gaimard—loc. cit., pl. xliii, fig. 7.