

NOTE ON *TRIPHORA SMITHI*, SOWERBY, AND *T. GRACILIOR*,
SMITH.

By the late EDGAR A. SMITH, I.S.O., F.Z.S., etc.

Read 10th March, 1916.

TRIPHORA SMITHI was described by Mr. G. B. Sowerby in these "Proceedings" (vol. vi, p. 175) from a single shell preserved in the collection of the late Admiral Keppel. At the time (September, 1904) the locality was unknown, and the unique shell was referred to as "larger than any other known species of the genus" excepting *T. princeps*, described by Mr. Sowerby at the same time, also from an unknown locality. The object of this note is to point out that *T. smithi* had previously been described by myself as *T. gracilior*, that the species when adult is quite as large as *T. princeps*, and also to give its geographical distribution as far as at present known.

The description of *T. gracilior* was published on November 15th, 1903, in Stanley Gardiner's *Fauna and Geography of the Maldivé and Laccadive Archipelagoes* (vol. ii, p. 614, pl. xxxv, figs. 18, 19). The species was founded on a single shell from the Maldivé Islands, which is preserved in the British Museum. It is 5 mm. shorter than Mr. Sowerby's type, also in the national collection, having a length of 28 mm. In the year 1907 the Museum acquired a large selection of shells from an extensive collection made at the Andaman Islands by the late Rev. J. L. T. Warneford, and among the specimens obtained was a fine example of *T. gracilior*, which if the top of the spire had not been broken off must have measured almost 60 mm. in length.

Mr. Sowerby has given the number of whorls of *T. smithi* as thirty-five, but in my examination of the type I can count only twenty-six. Perhaps Mr. Sowerby may have allowed nine extra whorls for the top of the spire which is wanting, but I do not think it would have consisted of so many. He described the whorls as having 2-4 spirals, which is vague and not quite accurate, since each whorl bears three spirals, the uppermost, below a fine sutural thread, being a little more slender than the other two. The latter also are slightly affected by faint longitudinal depressions, giving them an obscurely beaded appearance. This is noticeable in the types both of *smithi* and *gracilior*, but is hardly apparent in the very large Andaman specimen. The space between the second and third keel is a little broader than that which separates the first and second, and the suture is filo-carinate. The labrum in the adult is a trifle effuse, and exhibits within three grooves, which correspond to three of the external spirals or carinæ, namely, the two peripheral ones close together and one above more remote. The columella has a well-defined callus extending from the junction of the outer lip above to the end of the oblique anterior canal, which is not closed.

In conclusion, I may add that the figure of *T. smithi* does not give any idea of the true sculpture of the species. That of *T. gracilior* in Mr. Stanley Gardiner's work is fairly accurate.



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