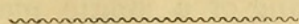


that covers the island. At first I imagined it must be caused by frogs, so perfectly did it resemble the croaking of these animals. However, on tracing the sound to its source, I discovered that it proceeded from the burrows of the Ocypode crabs which here fringed the beach at high-water mark. These burrows are frequently, in coral sand, very wide at their mouths (6 to 8 ins.), and then taper gradually downwards, so that they act as excellent resonators. The cause of the stridulation of the crabs was by no means apparent, the animals were all lying hidden in their burrows, and several were croaking at the same time, as if in concert.



Natural History Notes from the Royal Indian Marine Survey Steamer 'Investigator,' Commander C. F. Oldham, R. N., commanding.—Series II., No. 13. A New Brachiopod. BY A. ALCOCK, SUPERINTENDENT OF THE INDIAN MUSEUM.

PLATE VIII.

[Received and Read, 4th July.]

Of the *Brachiopoda* of Indian waters but little appears to be known. *Lingula* and *Crania* have been reported from the shallows, and a small species of *Terebratula* has—but not very commonly—been met with off Ceylon in 20–30 fathoms. I myself, in the course of four seasons systematic dredging, 1888–1892, on board the “Investigator,” only once met with a Brachiopod—a minute species of *Terebratula*—dredged in 1891 in the Laccadive Sea, at 865–880 fathoms, on a bottom of *Globigerina* ooze. A certain amount of interest, therefore, attaches to any “finds” in these waters of representatives of this ancient class of animals.

The species described in the sequel is a *Terebratula* of remarkable size, dredged in the Laccadive-Maldivé basin, off the island Uligánu of the Northern Maldivé atoll, at a depth of 719 fathoms, on a bottom of fine coral sand. The species is represented, unfortunately, only by a dead shell, which however was quite perfect.

TEREBRATULA, Llhwyd.

Terebratula Johannis-Davisi, n. sp., Plate VIII.

Shell pyriform, inequilateral, thin but strong, its surface smooth except for the concentric lines of growth, and microscopically punctate: in colour purple-brown.

The shell is remarkable in being inequilateral, having a well-marked bulge to the left side (the shell being held ventral valve downwards and beak pointing backwards): and this asymmetry is shown by the lines of growth to have existed from an early period of life.

The dorsal valve is slightly more convex than the ventral; and both valves have the margin simple, entire, and broadly turned over and bevelled all round.

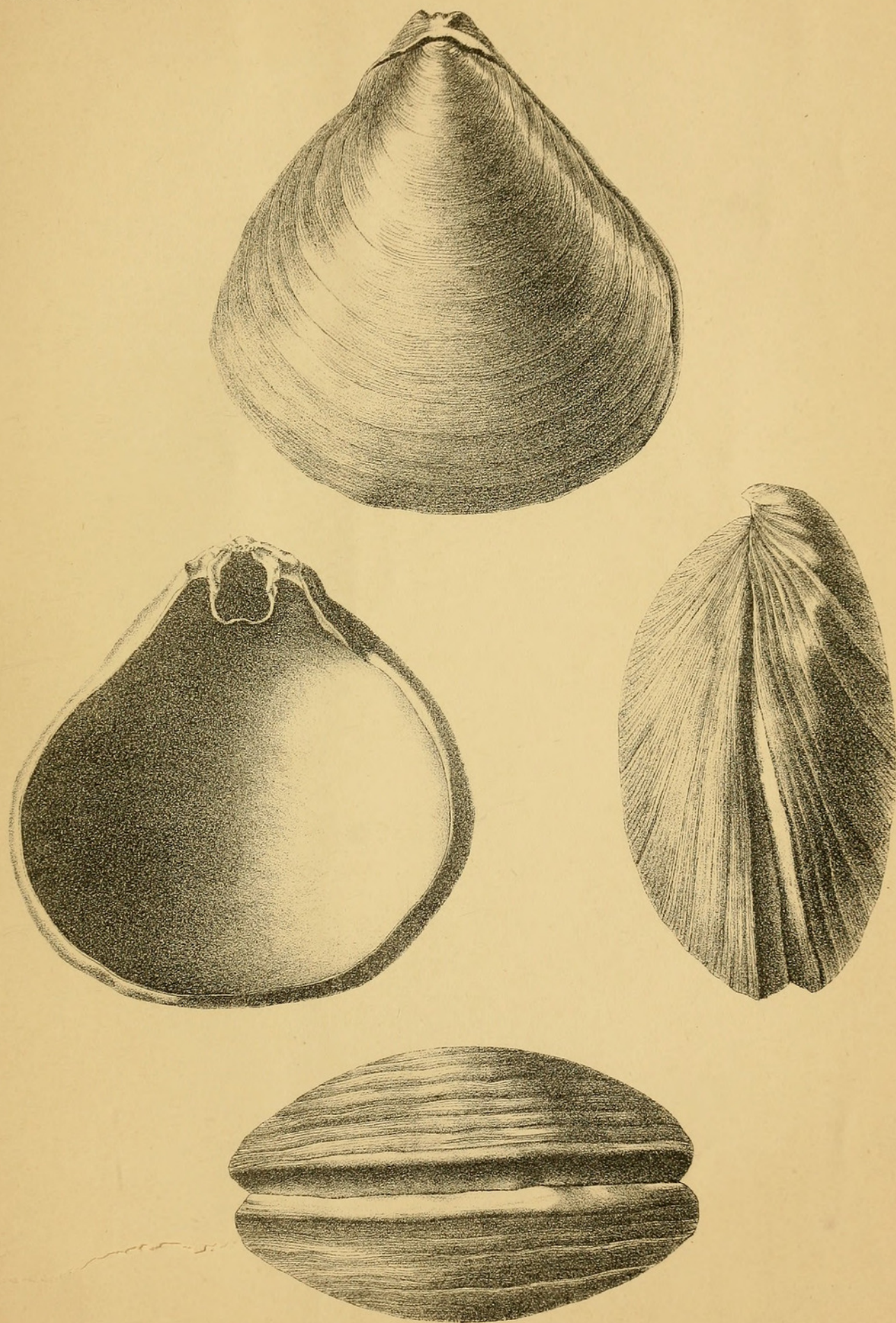
Internally, the dorsal valve has very prominent cardinal processes, and a small slender loop, the greatest convexity of which does not reach forward beyond the first fifth of the length of the shell.

The ventral valve has a re-curved beak which conceals the small deltidium, the latter consisting of a single piece transversely striated, and the beak being truncated by a thick-edged foramen.

Greatest length of the shell 73 millim., greatest breadth 68 millim.

I have named this species after the great Elizabethan navigator John Davis, who appears to have been the first English explorer to take an interest in the Maldivé Islands.

The plate explains itself.



S. C. Mondul del.

A. C. Chowdhary lith.

TEREBRATULA JOHANNIS-DAVISI.



Alcock, A. 1894. "Natural History Notes from the Royal Indian Marine Survey Steamer 'Investigator,' Commander C. F. Oldham, R. N., Commanding.—Series II., No. 13. A New Brachiopod." *The journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal* 63(II), 139–140.

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