

9. *Serolis gracilis*, F. E. B. (Pl. III. figs. 7-13).

*Serolis gracilis*, F. E. Beddard, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1884, pt. iii. p. 332.

Five specimens of this species were dredged at Station 120 (675 fathoms), three males and two females.

The males were approximately of the same size, the largest measuring 21 mm. in length by 22 mm. in breadth; the females were much smaller, measuring 9 mm. in length, by 8 mm. in breadth.

The chief difference between the two sexes, apart from that of size and relative proportions of length and breadth, consists in the greater length of the epimera in the males; in the female specimens (Pl. III. fig. 8) the last thoracic epimera hardly reach as far as the end of the caudal shield, while the first abdominal epimera only extend about half way down, and the posterior abdominal epimera terminate at about the level of the end of the anterior third of the caudal shield; in the male (Pl. III. fig. 7) the posterior thoracic epimera are considerably longer, reaching beyond the caudal shield for a space of about its own length; the actual length of these epimera is 13 mm.; the first abdominal epimera extend a short way beyond the end of the caudal shield, and the posterior pair to about the middle. The difference between the two sexes in the length of the epimera is more marked in this species than in any other known to me.

The general form of the body is circular, and the dorsal surface is covered with scattered pits; the colour (in alcohol) is a dark slate-blue, varying to reddish yellow upon the terga of the posterior thoracic and abdominal segments.

The *cephalic shield* has much the same shape as in *Serolis bromleyana*; the portion lying between the eyes, which are small and inconspicuous, is strongly convex, while the antero-lateral areas are flat and depressed, and do not rise above the level of the first thoracic epimera; a transverse ridge running from the base of the rostrum, which is very minute, divides the cephalic shield as in *Serolis bromleyana*.

*Thorax.*—The first epimera are divided into three portions by two transverse ridges; the anterior one is continuous with the ridge that traverses the cephalic shield, it passes at first across the epimeron and then bends backwards running parallel with the anterior margin of the epimeron, and joins the distal end of the second ridge; the continuation of these two ridges passes along the margin of the epimeron closely applied to it, and terminates some way in front of the end of the epimeron. The posterior ridge corresponds to the line of suture between the two fused epimera of the first and second thoracic segments.

The other epimera are flat and sickle-shaped, not spiniform as in *Serolis bromleyana* and *Serolis neera*; they gradually increase in length up to the sixth; the articular processes, which unite together the succeeding epimera, are placed further than is usual from the junction between the terga and the epimera, which gives the latter the appear-