

NOTE ON *CÆCUM TRACHÆA* (MONTAGUE), *CÆCUM POLLICARE*,
CARPENTER, AND *CÆCUM VITREUM*, CARPENTER.¹

From a number of Cæcums recently received from Algiers, I have been able to select a series of *Cæcum trachæa* (Mont.), upon which it was easy to make the following observations:—

(1.) The specimens from the coast of Algiers appear to be much smaller than those commonly taken on the shores of Great Britain and of the Bay of Biscay.

(2.) The characters become gradually less marked on the members of the series, and eventually specimens are found which present no other features than those observed in *Cæcum pollicare*, Carp., which they further resemble in size. The ornamentation finally vanishes, and the shell, which has thus become smooth, shows no more sculpture than does a specimen of *Cæcum vitreum* of the same author.

A large number of specimens of Cæcum, which were collected on board the "Travailleur" and the "Talisman" in the Strait of Bocayana, between Lanzerote and Fuertaventura, were recognised as belonging to the two species, *Cæcum pollicare* and *Cæcum vitreum*.

It was easy to observe on a series of specimens that the former gradually became attenuated and lost its principal character, the longitudinal ornamentation, and arrived at the smooth condition seen in *Cæcum vitreum*.

A similar phenomenon was noticed in the case of *Cæcum achironum*, from the coast of Brazil, which, while very different in form, is ornamented in the same way as *Cæcum pollicare*. It also passes gradually into the smooth state by a weakening of the longitudinal markings ordinarily so prominent in typical specimens.

Thus the characters of *Cæcum pollicare* seem to connect it closely with *Cæcum trachæa*; it has the same form, the same aperture, the same septum, and sometimes the appearance of rings upon the earlier portions of the tube. But although the large series of specimens from Algiers apparently indicates that the one species is derived from the other, yet *Cæcum trachæa* has never been found on the coasts inhabited by *Cæcum pollicare*. Furthermore, the degeneration of the surface ornamentation does not cease until *Cæcum pollicare* passes into *Cæcum vitreum*, which also exhibits the same form, the same aperture, and the same septum, and differs only in the fact that its surface has become smooth.

¹ Added by the Marquis de Folin, May 8, 1886.