

Octopus occidentalis, Steenstrup, MS.

... *Octopus occidentalis*, Steenstrup, MS. in Mus. Havn.
1853. ,, *vulgaris*, var. *americanus*, d'Orb., Moll. Cuba, p. 14, tab. i.

Habitat.—Ascension, April 1876. One specimen ♀.

Cuba (d'Orb).

The Body is short and oblong, somewhat expanded behind, and deeply grooved in the middle line. The *mantle-opening* terminates midway between the eyes and the *siphon*, which is conical, pointed and of quite the average length, extending fully half-way to the umbrella-margin.

The Head is very short and as broad as the body, the *eyes* being very prominent and the eyelids much contracted.

The Arms are subequal, about six times the length of the body. The *umbrella* extends nearly one-third up the arms, to the least extent apparently between the dorsal pair, though this may be owing to the state of contraction. The *suckers* are of moderate size, but present no characteristic peculiarities. The *circumoral lip* is invisible, owing to its retraction, the suckers extending quite to the centre.

The Surface is rough, slightly so on the body, but with minute irregular papillæ scattered over the head and the outer surfaces of the arms. The internal surface of the umbrella bears very numerous papillæ, which are aggregated into clusters, between which the skin is smooth; they extend over the inner surface of the arms between the suckers, and the wall of these bears minute warts on its outer surface. There are traces of one or two irregular cirri over each eye, but none can be found on the back.

The Colour of the upper surface of the body, head, and outside of the arms is dark brown, almost black, the ventral surface of the body being amber-brown; the inner surface of the umbrella is pale yellow, the groups of papillæ being still of a pinkish hue, though not so deeply coloured as in d'Orbigny's figure (*loc. cit.*), which was perhaps drawn from life.

Dimensions.

Length, total,	300 mm.	
End of body to mantle margin,	35 "	
End of body to eye,	55 "	
Breadth of body,	50 "	
Breadth of head,	40 "	
Eye to edge of umbrella,	about 50 "	
Diameter of largest sucker,	7 "	
	Right.	Left.
Length of first arm,	235 mm.	120 ¹ mm.
Length of second arm,	235 "	240 "
Length of third arm,	230 "	230 "
Length of fourth arm,	220 "	230 "

¹ Mutilated. The lengths of the arms are measured from the margin of the mouth.