

There can be no doubt that this specimen is to be referred to the same species as that figured by d'Orbigny (*tab. cit.*), but there is much more difficulty in deciding by what name it should be called. When the plates accompanying the "Cuba Memoir" were drawn it is evident that d'Orbigny regarded it as varietally distinct from *Octopus vulgaris*, Lmk., for the plate is lettered "*Octopus vulgaris*, var. *americanus*," and since this figure is really the type of the species, it would have been desirable to elevate d'Orbigny's designation into a specific name, and to quote him as the authority for it. The first objection to this is that d'Orbigny seems to have abandoned his idea of establishing this as a formal variety, for in his text he makes no further allusion to its characteristic peculiarities than "Nous avons cru remarquer que les individus américains, tout en présentant les proportions et tous les autres caractères de ceux de nos côtes, sont néanmoins plus tachetés de rouge en dedans de l'ombrelle" (*loc. cit.*, p. 415). The second objection is more serious, and consists in the fact that the name *americanus* has been already applied to an *Octopus* by de Blainville,¹ following de Montfort,² who applied the name "Poulpe américain" to a figure published by Barker.³ The drawing was so insufficient that the name has never come into use, and it would be quite impossible to demonstrate its identity with the present form. Under these circumstances I have not felt justified in adopting d'Orbigny's name, but have thought it better to use Steenstrup's MS. designation.

The individual examined presents some curious irregularities in the disposition of the suckers. The left dorsal arm has the six proximal suckers disposed in the usual manner (the first four being in one series), and after them a gap, large enough to have contained two suckers, which have been, as it were, dislocated on to the umbrella just at the dorsal margin of the arm. The right dorsal arm has a supernumerary sucker just beyond the eleventh; and the third arm on the right side has the nine proximal suckers arranged normally, but beyond them are two transverse rows, each containing three suckers. Such deviations from the usual rule suggest the question whether *Tritaxeopus cornutus*, Owen,⁴ may not be merely a case in which a similar malformation is more completely carried out.

Octopus tuberculatus, Blainville.

1826. *Octopus tuberculatus*, Blv., Dict. d. Sci. Nat., t. xliii. p. 187.

1838. " " d'Orb., Céph. acét., p. 38; Poulpes, pls. xxi., xxiii.

1869. " " Targ., Ceph. Mus. Firenze, p. 18.

Habitat.—Station 122B, off Barra Grande, September 10, 1873; lat. 9° 9' S., long. 34° 53' W.; 32 fathoms; red mud. One young specimen.

¹ Dict. d. Sci. Nat., p. 189, 1826.

² Buffon de Sonnini, Moll., t. iii. p. 30, pl. xxix., 1802.

³ Phil. Trans., vol. 1. part 2, p. 777, pl. xxix. figs. 1-4, 1758.

⁴ Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond., vol. xi. p. 131.