

ART. XXXII.—*Brief Contributions to Zoology from the Museum of Yale College.* No. XXXV.—*Notice of the occurrence of another Gigantic Cephalopod (Architeuthis) on the coast of Newfoundland, in December, 1874; by A. E. VERRILL.*

IN an article published in this Journal, February and March, 1875,* I gave a summary of our information concerning twelve specimens of gigantic cephalopods that have been obtained in American waters during a few years past, together with a brief notice of the various specimens that have been described by European writers.†

I am now able to add some important information concerning an additional specimen which was cast ashore last winter at Grand Bank, Fortune Bay, Newfoundland. As in the case of several of the previous specimens, I am deeply indebted to the Rev. M. Harvey for information concerning this one, and also for the jaws and one of the large suckers of the tentacular arms, these being the only parts preserved. Although this specimen went ashore in December, Mr. Harvey did not hear of the event until March, owing to the unusual interruption of travel by the severity of the winter. He informs me that Mr. George Simms, Magistrate of Grand Bank, has stated in a letter to him that he examined the creature a few hours after it went ashore, but not before it had been mutilated by the removal of the tail by the fishermen, who finally cut it up as food for their numerous dogs; and that the long tentacular arms were 26 feet long and 16 inches in circumference (probably meaning at their broad terminal portion); the short arms were "one-third as long as the long ones, and about the same in circumference;" the back of the head or neck was 36 inches in circumference," (evidently meaning the head, behind the bases of the arms); the length of the body "from the junction to the tail" was 10 feet, (apparently meaning from the anterior edge of the mantle to the origin of the caudal fins). He thinks the tail, which had been removed, was about one-third as long as the body, but this is probably overestimated, judging from the Logie Bay specimen (No. 5 of my former papers), in which it

* This Journal, vol. ix, pp. 123, 177, Plates II-V. See also the *American Naturalist*, vol. ix, pp. 21, 78, January and February, 1875.

† In the "*Journal de Zoologie*," vol. iv, No. 2, p. 88, 1875, M. Paul Gervais has also given a summary of the gigantic cephalopods previously known, and has mentioned an additional species (*Architeuthis Mouchezi* Vélain), of which portions were brought to Paris by M. Vélain, from the Island of Saint Paul, where it was cast ashore. He also quotes the brief notice of the animal by M. Vélain (in *Comptes rendus*, t. lxxx, p. 1002, Seance du April 19, 1875). It is stated that this example belongs to the same group with *Ommastrephes*, and if so it will probably prove to be generically distinct from both of the Newfoundland species. M. Gervais does not refer, in any way, to the several American specimens described by the writer and others.

was about one-fifth, but it may have been cut off above its proper base. Allowing one-fifth also for the length of the head, the total length would be about 40 feet, the head and body together being about 14. The large sucker, in my possession, is one inch in diameter, across the denticulated rim, and in form and structure agrees closely with those previously described and figured by me from the tentacular arms of Nos. 4 and 5 (vol. ix, Plate IV, figs. 11, 12, 13).

The jaws are still attached together, in their natural position, by the cartilages.* They agree very closely in form with the large jaws of *Architeuthis princeps* V. (No. 10), figured on Plate V, vol. ix, but they are about one-tenth smaller. The upper jaw measures 111^{mm} in height (front to back); 88^{mm} from tip of beak to front edge of palatine laminae; 20^{mm} from tip of beak to the base of the notch. The lower jaw measures 96^{mm} in total length; 80^{mm} from tip of beak to front edge of laminae; 19^{mm} from tip to base of notch.

From the close agreement of these jaws with those of *A. princeps*, there can be very little doubt that they belong to that species; and if so the measurements given will be of great importance as affording additional knowledge of the approximate form and proportions of this, the largest known species.

NOTE.—In "The Zoologist," London, 2d Series, No. 118, p. 4526, July, 1875, there is an article entitled, "Notice of a gigantic Cephalopod (*Dinoteuthis proboscideus*), which was stranded at Dingle, in Kerry, two hundred years ago. By A. G. More, F.L.S." The article is chiefly a reprint of the rude popular accounts written at the time of the capture, and upon these alone Mr. More attempts to found a new genus and species. The one character which he relies upon as of generic value, is the power of projecting the beak in the form of a proboscis. But he apparently does not know that this is habitually done by the various common species of *Ommastrephes*, *Loligo*, etc., and perhaps by all ten-armed cephalopods. There is no reason to suppose, from the published accounts, that this specimen differed in any way from the *Architeuthis monachus*. It was described as 19 feet in total length, the long arms having been mutilated, the part remaining was 11 feet long, and as thick as a man's arm; the short arms varied from 6 to 8 feet in length, and were as thick as a man's leg, and had two rows of large serrated suckers; the proboscis (buccal mass with beak) was the "size of a man's fist;" the beak was "like an eagle's but broader." The whole animal was said to have been as large as a large horse. The measurements given indicate a specimen smaller than several of the American examples, and but little, if any, larger than our No. 5, from Logie Bay.

In the August number of the "Annals and Magazine of Natural History," vol. xvi, p. 123, the same writer has briefly described the beak, and portions of the tentacles and arms of another specimen taken off Boffin Island, on the west coast of Ireland, last April. The tentacular arms are said to have been 30 feet long; the expanded portion 2 feet 9 inches; the large central suckers nearly 1 inch in diameter; those of the outer rows $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch; one short arm is said to have been 8 feet long, and 15 inches in circumference at the base, when fresh.

Mr. More believes this to be distinct from the Newfoundland species and refers it to *A. dux*, but his description agrees closely with the corresponding parts of *A. monachus* (No. 5) described by me. He appears to be ignorant of my articles on the subject, published in this Journal.

* These will be figured in an article on the gigantic cephalopods, now in preparation for the Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Sciences.