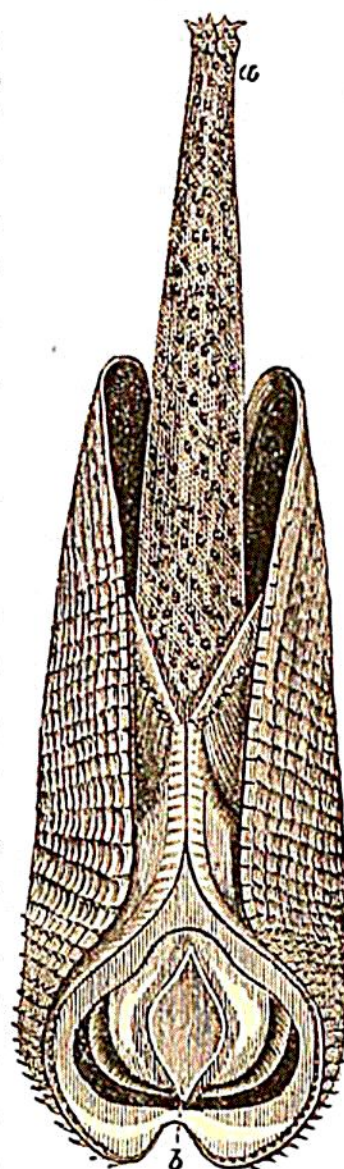


these siphons is its mouth, and the other its anal orifice. Reaumer made some observations upon their mode of boring; he says, that it is by the rotation of the two valves of their shell, which form a rasp, and continually wear away the rock which surrounds them. The surface of the valves of the shell is ridged longitudinally and transversely, and rough with asperities at the intersections of the ridges, which seems to fit it for such an office, but still it is usually so tender and friable, that one would not expect it could act upon a rock, nor could it be by this agency that they first make an entry when young, or bore through shells, madrepores, and wood, as they are said to do. They are stated principally to select calcareous rocks, and sometimes hardened clay, which seem better adapted to the nature of their shells. Poli says they use their foot as an auger in excavating their crypts, the shell revolving upon it as upon an axis.

Fig. 32.



Pholus dactylus.

a. b. Respiratory siphons.

Mr. Osler, in the memoir before alluded to, states that the pholads can be observed to burrow only in the young state; and that they are found completely buried when so minute as to be almost invisible. The guiding hand of Providence excites them from their very birth to fix themselves by their pointed foot, to erect their shells, and giving them a partial rotatory motion, which employs the valves alternately, thus to enlarge their habitation, and this almost constantly, since