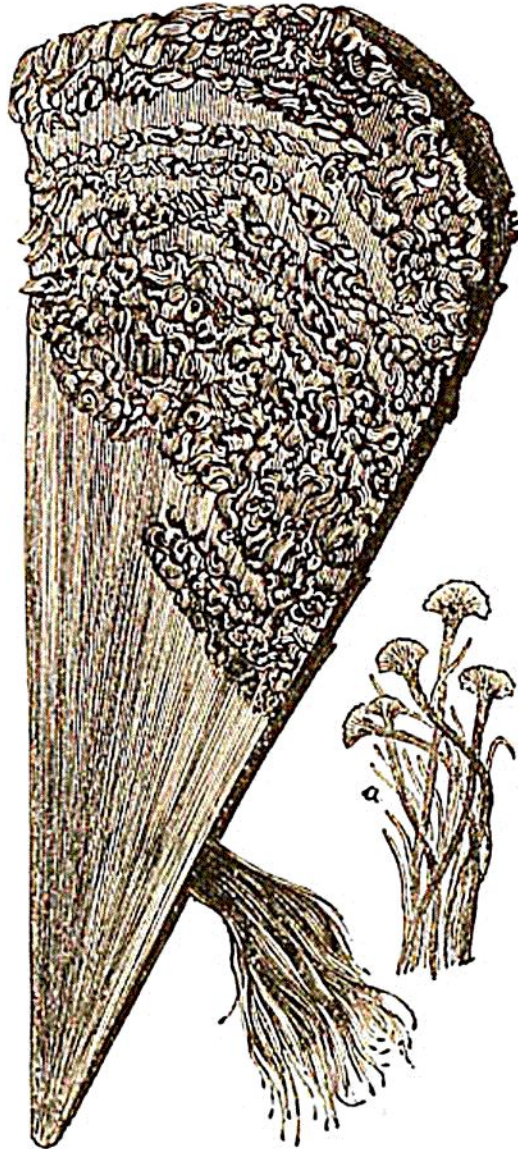


than five hundred pounds, anchor their vast bulk by means of a strong byssus: below the hinge is a large opening, through which the animal passes a bundle of tendinous fibres, by which it is appended to the rocks, however large and weighty its shells, and thus it is enabled to fix itself securely, wherever its instinct directs it.

These animals are said to be taken by means of a long pole, which is introduced between the valves of their shells when open; they immediately close them, and will not quit their hold till they are landed. They are a principal article of food in the Moluccas, especially the young ones, which may be kept alive a long time.

The *wing-shell** belonging to the unimuscular section, has long been celebrated on more than one account, from a very early period. They are called wing-shells, or fin-shells, because they are shaped somewhat like a wing or fin; their Latin name (*Pinna*) is supposed to have been given them because of their resemblance to the plumes which the Roman soldiers wore in their helmets. They are sometimes very large, some are said to measure three feet in length: their substance differs from that of most shells, being of a fibrous structure, and they appear to be formed of

Fig. 33.

*Pinna muricata.** *Pinna*.