

The poulp, also called octopus (eight-footed), sometimes attains a formidable size, and sailors relate terrible stories of those found in the African seas. According to Denys de Montfort, Dens, a navigator, avowed that while three of his men were engaged in scraping the side of the ship, one of these monsters reached up from the water its long and flexible arms, and drew two of the men into the sea. One was never rescued, and the other, after his escape, became delirious and died. This was probably a "sailor's yarn," since the Frenchman who narrated it afterward represented a "Kraken octopod" in the act of scuttling a three-master (Fig. 45), and told M. DeFrance that, if this were "swallowed," he would, in his next edition, represent the monster embracing the Straits of Gibraltar, or capsizing a whole squadron of ships. Little reliance as can be placed in the

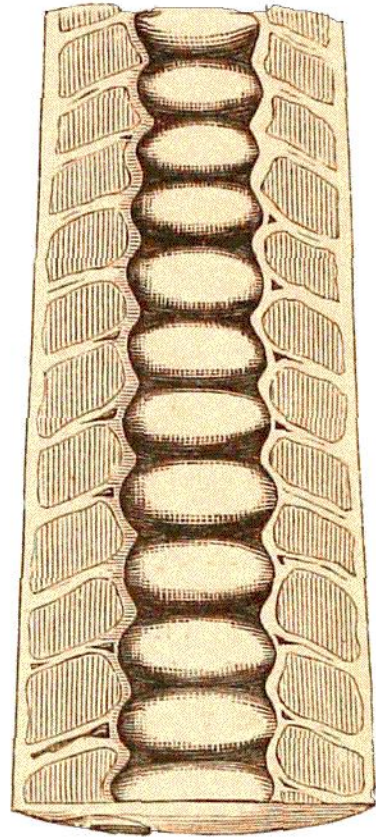


Fig. 47. Fragment of a straight-chambered Shell (*Ormoceras tenuifilum*), showing a large annulated central siphon.

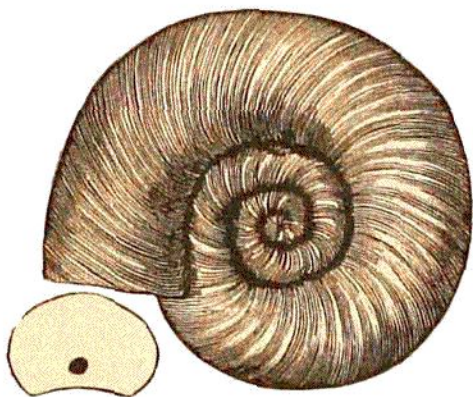


Fig. 4. *Trocholites ammonius*. A coiled - chambered shell of the Trenton period.

marvelous stories of "those who go down to the sea in ships," it is well authenticated that some of these octopods attain fearful dimensions, being the largest invertebrates known. Milne-Edwards, an eminent Parisian naturalist, has expressed the conviction that the unexplored depths of the ocean conceal the

forms of octopods that far surpass in magnitude any of the species known to science.