

Coquimbo ^{low plain} ~~low plain~~

Pecten purpuratus Lam.

The fossil *Pecten* which occurs in this locality, resembles very closely a recent species, which is common at Coquimbo and to which we find the name *Pecten purpuratus* Lam. attached in the British Museum. I cannot however regard this as decidedly the *P. purpuratus* of Lamarck, ^{and} as I have never had an opportunity of comparing it with the specimen in Lamarck's collection, I am unable to decide: in the short character which Lamarck gives of his species there are two circumstances in which it differs from our recent species from Coquimbo, which are, the number & convexity of the rays. Lamarck in his character of *P. purpuratus* says that it has 26 convex rays, whereas in our shell the rays are 22, and all very ^{more} flat. With regard to the locality, ~~it is~~ ^{we} observe that Lamarck, speaking of his *P. purpuratus*, says "Habite les mers orientales et australes"; and afterwards "On le dit du Japon": neither of which localities accords with that of our shell. One other circumstance contributes, with those already mentioned, to render it doubtful in my opinion whether our shell be the *P. purpuratus* of Lam. for our shell has a remarkable character which is not noticed by Lamarck; it is this,

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when the Shell has reached a diameter of about two inches, ~~the~~ small interstitial ribs make their appearance between ~~some~~ of the principal ribs, which interstitial ribs become quite distinct when the Shell has arrived at a diameter of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Supposing however that the recent species in question is the *P. purpuratus* of Lamarck I have now to state that the fossil resembles it very nearly in every character, differing only in having the principal ribs more convex, the interstices narrower and ~~the~~ ventral points of the interstices obtusely bidentate instead of being only obtusely quadrate.