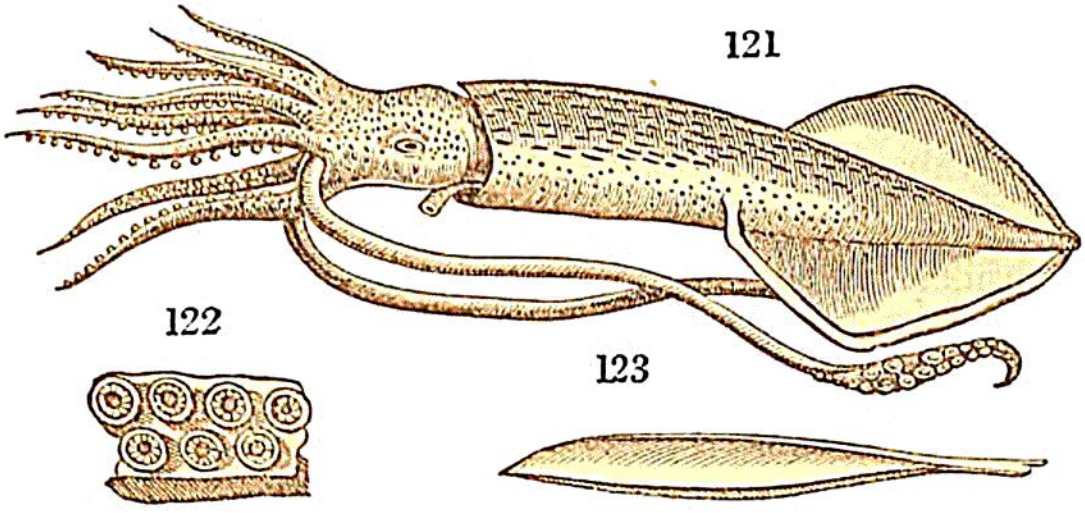
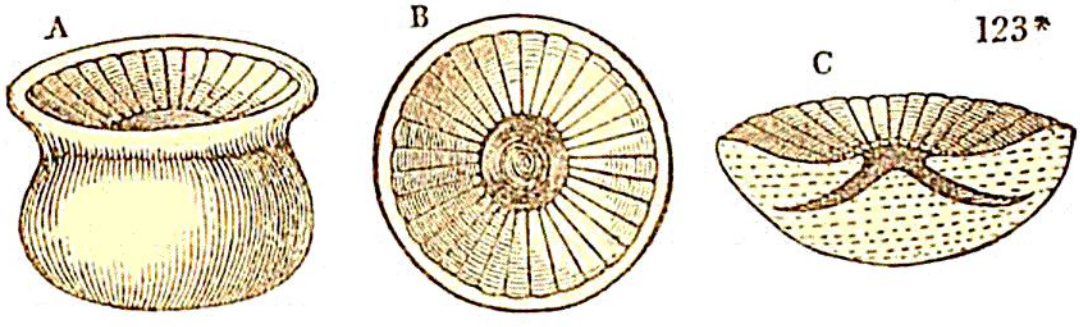
they twine with ease round an object of any shape, and grasp it with prodigious force. In addition to these properties they derive a remarkable power of adhesion to the surfaces



of bodies from their being furnished with numerous suckers all along their inner sides. Each of these suckers, as shown separately in Fig. 122, is usually supported on a narrow neck, or pedicle, and strengthened at its circumference by a ring of cartilage. Their internal mechanism is more artificial than the simple construction already described, (p.



106;) for when the surface of the disk is fully expanded, as shown in Fig. 123* B, we find that it is formed of a great number of long slender pieces, resembling teeth closely set together, and extending from the inner margin of the cartilaginous ring in the form of converging radii, to within a short distance of the centre, where they leave a circular aperture. In the flattened state of the sucker, this aperture is filled by the projecting part of a softer substance, which forms an interior portion, capable of being detached from the flat circle of teeth, when the sucker is in action, and of leaving an