

a man cannot dig quickly enough in the sand to catch them. Frequently at low water they may be found at the surface, with about an inch of the shell projecting, but if not approached quietly and seized quickly they are soon out of reach. A method of catching Razor-shells, frequently practiced in England, is to drop a little salt in the burrow, adding a little water to carry it down. This is literally putting salt on their tails, for they stand head downwards in their burrows. The irritated animal always comes to the surface and can be seized by the hand. Another method is to push down the burrow a stout wire, having at its end a barb or hook; this pierces the animal and it can be easily drawn up. Both of these methods would certainly work with our species.

These animals, like most others which cannot move about, feed on microscopic plants and animals, which are drawn into their bodies with water by one of the fringed tubes, the other being for the removal of waste matters. They are rather fastidious in their habitat, requiring clean sand and clear water. They are, hence, not found on rocky shores nor in estuaries. They are eaten by some fishes, principally by the Skates.

ECONOMICS. Of Razor-fishes in general, Forbes and Hanley tell us,—"They are among the most delicious of shell-fish when properly cooked—broiling is the best method." Willis says our species is an excellent article of food, and they have been sold in the Halifax market for one penny each. Mr. J. H. Duvar remarks that when offered for sale at rare intervals in Halifax, they have found purchasers among epicures. It seems to be entirely unknown as an article of



FIG. 19.—*Solen ensis*, var.
Americana.
Natural Size.