What are Scamels?

Well, nobody knows for sure, and the only clue lies in William Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*. *Scamels* is an example of a hapax legomenon, a word or form occurring only once in a document or corpus. Shakespeare’s Caliban speaks of harvesting scamels in *The Tempest*:

I prithee, let me bring thee where crabs grow;
And I with my long nails will dig thee pig-nuts,
Show thee a jay’s nest, and instruct thee how
To snare the nimble marmoset. I’ll bring thee
To clust’ring filberts, and sometimes I’ll get thee
Young scamels from the rock. Wilt thou go with me? (2.2.162-67)

Scholars have surmised that scamels are most likely sea mews, or seagulls. Others contend that scamels may be mollusks of some nature. Perhaps it is neither. Its uncertain definition is precisely why *scamels* was chosen as the name for this website. No matter how rich an education a teacher offers, there is always a question to be answered. Literature opens doors, but the true learning comes to students who think, dream, and envision for themselves. Wilt thou go with me?