

3. *Actinometra multibrachiata*, n. sp. (Pl. LVI. figs. 3, 4).

Specific formula—a.R.3. $\frac{p.p' \dots p'.br.}{2} \cdot \frac{b.}{a}$.

Description of an Individual.—Centro-dorsal a pentagonal disk with incurved sides which project somewhat over the smooth radials. Its dorsal surface is deeply hollowed in the centre, and bears about twenty-five cirri. These have fourteen to sixteen joints, nearly all of which are longer than wide, the penultimate with a small spine. Three radials visible. The first are raised at the angles, but deeply hollowed in the centre where they fail to meet the upper surface of the centro-dorsal. The two outer radials are short, wide, and united by syzygy. The second are only partly united laterally and the whole of the rays above them are quite free. Three distichals, the axillary a syzygy, and two palmars, united by syzygy. There may be six subsequent divisions which are normally similar to the palmars.

Arms slender, but very numerous, thirty or more to each ray, composed of some hundred and fifty triangular and overlapping joints with very spinous edges. The first two brachials are united by syzygy, and there is sometimes another in the third brachial; the next is about the tenth or twelfth, and others follow at intervals of two or three joints.

The first pinnule on the second distichal is very long and slender, reaching 20 mm, with numerous short joints; the next one, normally on the second brachial, is of the same character, but much smaller, and the next few are of decreasing length, after which there is but little increase. The lowest pinnules have a well-defined comb which extends to about the twelfth brachial, and sometimes appears quite far out on the arms; the joints of the middle and later pinnules are very spiny.

Colour in spirit,—dark brown.

Spread probably nearly 30 cm.

Locality.—Banda; 17 fathoms. One mutilated specimen.

Remarks.—Only a single mutilated example of this remarkable species was obtained, but its characters are sufficiently distinct to show that it cannot be referred either to *Actinometra novæ-guinæ* or to *Actinometra typica*. It resembles the latter form in the frequency of its ray-divisions, but differs from it altogether in having a relatively large centro-dorsal bearing over twenty well-developed cirri. On the other hand there are probably three times as many arms as in *Actinometra novæ-guinæ*, each of the rays which are preserved bearing thirty or more; while the centro-dorsal is larger with more numerous cirri than occur in that type. Its angles rest upon the raised marginal portions of the radials, which are deeply hollowed in the centre and do not therefore come in contact with the upper surface of the centro-dorsal, so that it overhangs them considerably when the calyx is viewed from the dorsal side.