

are considerably produced towards the dorsal side; but in other individuals from these and from other localities this character is entirely absent. That obtained by the Challenger at Simon's Bay seems to have just liberated its ova, as a small group of them is collected on the distal side of each genital pinnule, in the angle between it and the arm (Pl. LXI. fig. 7).

In nearly all the examples of this species which I have seen the mouth is very distinctly interradial, as is well shown in Müller's diagram of *Comatula wahlbergii*,¹ and in my own figures of *Actinometra polymorpha*.² In one or two cases, however, the A ambulacrum is somewhat displaced forwards, though never so much so as to cause the mouth to become radial.

The disk is generally naked, but the neighbourhood of the anal tube sometimes bears scattered granules; while in one individual from Torres Strait there is a tolerably close pavement of minute scale-like plates over the whole disk. The perisome of the arms and pinnules in this individual is considerably reduced, and the genital glands are but poorly developed, though in another from the same station, which was presented by Sir Wyville Thomson to the Stockholm Museum, the perisome is much more substantial and the genital pinnules, especially in the posterior arms, are much swollen, so that the two forms differ greatly in their external appearance.

Actinometra parvicirra, as described above, is a somewhat comprehensive type, embracing as it does three of Müller's species, together with four others which have been regarded as distinct at various times; and its distribution therefore is considerably extensive. It occurs to a distance of about 35° on either side of the equator, and has a range in longitude of some 260° from the Cape of Good Hope to Peru. Long since known from Natal, Timor, and from the Friendly Islands, it has subsequently been discovered at numerous intermediate localities, such as Ceylon, the Moluccas, Philippines, Japan, Fiji, and East Australia; and I quite expect that it will be eventually found in the Atlantic, more especially as the species of *Actinometra* characteristic of that ocean seems also to occur in the Arafura Sea, while *Antedon carinata* of the Indian Ocean and East Pacific is a common species in the West Atlantic.

¹ *Abhandl. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, Jahrg. 1847 [1849], p. 245.

² *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.)*, ser. 2, 1877 [1879], pl. i. figs. 6-10.