Habitat.—Mediterranean (Pallas); ? Indian Ocean (Rumphius, Lamarck); Dirk Hartog, West Australia, 45 to 50 fathoms, Mermaid Channel, 50 fathoms (Studer), "Gazelle" Expedition.

Antipathes virgata, Esper (Pl. XI. figs. 13, 14).

Antipathes virgata, Esper, Pflanzenth., (Fortsetz.), pt. ii. p. 8, pl. xiv.
Antipathes scoparia, Lamarck, Hist. nat. anim. sans vert., t. ii. p. 307; Milne-Edwards, Coralliaires, t. i. p. 319.

"Antipathes ramis dichotomis, ramulis strictis, virgatis, aculeatis" (Esper, *op. cit.*).

I have had considerable difficulty in deciding as to the identity of this species, on account of the fact that there are two specimens in the British Museum, which are specifically distinct, and both of which may be considered to agree with the original description of Esper. There seems no sufficient ground for supposing *Antipathes scoparia*, Lamarck, to differ specifically from *Antipathes virgata*, Esper, indeed, Lamarck himself gave Esper's name in the synonymy without a query. On the other hand, Esper's form was sent to him from the East Indies, whereas Lamarck gives the Mediterranean as the habitat of his form. I am not aware that any specimen, agreeing with the characters of *Antipathes scoparia*, Lamarck, has since been recorded from the Mediterranean.

Esper, in describing the spines of his species and comparing them with those of other forms, makes use of the following expression (*op. cit.*, p. 9):—"Sie sind höchstens, nur dichter angehäuft, und in gleichförmigere Reihen geordnet." On this account I have retained the form having the stouter and more closely packed spines under Esper's specific name *Antipathes virgata*, and have described the allied form as new. This course is in harmony with the identifications of Professor Lütken, who has specimens of what may prove to be both forms in the Copenhagen Museum.

The British Museum specimen referred to is 1·5 m. high, shrub-like, and densely branched, the long tapering branches being mostly directed upwards. The base is 2·5 cm. in diameter, and soon gives rise to a number of very long tapering branches, some of which, for a length of 5 to 8 cm., are spirally twisted. In other cases it appears as if a branch had become bifurcated for a short distance, the two parts being twisted together, and then above they become confluent again. The branching in the upper portion of the corallum is dichotomous, each branch bearing a number of elongate branchlets (15 to 50 cm.) mostly on one side. These arise at an acute angle and are mostly arched inwards so as to take an upward course. The whole corallum gradually tapers from base to apex, and there is no sudden diminution in diameter in passing from branch to branchlet in any part. In some cases a branchlet, after a short course of 8 or 10 cm., bends inwards and fuses with the branch from which it was derived, but, in most cases, the branches and branchlets are free. The sclerenchyma is black and glossy in all parts of