

The finer branches show an apparent succession of swellings produced by the larger spines surrounding the polyps. Spines cylindrical, unequal, with a few very long ones about the proximal end of each polyp. The polyps (of which Pourtalès gives a figure) are sessile, with very short tentacles. The largest specimen spreads 20 cm. in height and 30 cm. in breadth (Pourt., *op. cit.*).

I judge from the above description that this species is somewhat allied in mode of branching to *Aphanipathes? fruticosa* (Gray). It differs considerably, however, in the size and arrangement of the spines, of which Pourtalès gives a figure. The spines are all of the same type, but those in the neighbourhood of the polyps are more elongate, giving a submoniliform appearance allied to that of *Aphanipathes? humilis* (Pourt.), but not nearly so pronounced. In *Aphanipathes? fruticosa* (Gray), on the other hand, the spines are of two very distinct sizes, each regularly distributed and apparently subject to little variation in length. In the form and arrangement of spines this species comes nearer to *Aphanipathes filix* and *Aphanipathes abietina*, but differs from both in the type of branching.

Habitat.—Off St. Vincent, 124 fathoms (Portalès).

Aphanipathes? filix (Pourt.).

Antipathes filix, Pourtalès, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1868, p. 112; Cat. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., pt. iv., 1871, p. 54; Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1880, p. 116, pl. iii. figs. 15, 16.

Antipathes myriophylla, Pourtalès (*non* Esper.), Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1878, p. 210; *non Antipathes myriophylla*, Esp., Pourtalès, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1880, pl. iii. fig. 23.

Young Specimens.—Main stem erect, straight, pinnate; pinnules set off nearly at right angles, rather short, covered with spines or short stiff hairs, and showing a succession of slight swellings and contractions. Axis tough and corneous, nearly black, dark amber colour by transmitted light, about 7 cm. high.

Older specimens branch in a subflabellate manner, spreading 30 to 40 cm. more in breadth than in height, and assuming the general appearance of *Antipathes myriophylla*, Esp., with which Pourtalès says he confounded it when in this state. "It differs from the latter greatly in the arrangement of the pinnules and spines. The long spines surrounding the polyp are beset with little knobs at the end, giving them a rugose appearance." The polyps are small and inconspicuous, of the *Aphanipathes humilis* type.

According to Pourtalès, the differences between this species and *Aphanipathes abietina* are not great, the spines and polyps presenting no particular differences. The former may be distinguished (if not a mere variety) by its greater stiffness and by being regularly pinnate, instead of having pinnules in every direction.

Habitat.—Off Havana, in 270 fathoms,—every specimen obtained served as support