Genus Bathypathes, n. gen.

The dimorphic zooids in this genus are always separated from one another by a considerable interval, even at the apex of a branch, and are united together by median stolon-like outgrowths of their coelentera. The mouth opens on the general surface of the peristome, or is situated on the apex of a short conical or cylindrical projection of it, as in other Schizopathinæ. The corallum is pinnate and attached to a stone or some other foreign object by a dilated base. The zooids have a similar structure to those of Schizopathes, but an elongation of the stomodæum in the sagittal axis is never marked. Usually its greatest length corresponds with the transverse axis of the gastrozooid. The gonozooids contain very few ova, which are large, and each is enclosed in a special chamber.

Bathypathes patula, n. sp. (Pl. V. figs. 1-4).

The stem in the type specimen is 19 cm. long, nearly straight, unbranched, with a rounded dilation at the base, which is attached to a small stone. The axis is slender, and a little thicker near the middle than at the base. The whole, in one well-preserved specimen, is covered with a delicate coenenchyma to within 18 mm. of the point of attachment.

The branches are lateral, simple, elongate, slender, and are arranged in pairs nearly but not quite opposite each other. The longest measures 7.5 cm. Opposite branches are not in the same plane, but inclined to each other at an obtuse angle, with their distal portions recurved. The polyps are situated on that face (anterior) which borders the obtuse angle. There are two specimens of this species in the Challenger Collection, one with nine pairs of branches and the other eleven. The middle pair of branches are longer than the others. The first pair is given off about half-way up the stem. The pairs are all nearly equidistant, and about 9 mm. apart.

The sclerenchyma is brownish black, that of the branches getting paler towards the tip, where the colour is yellowish brown. The branches have a small, central, longitudinal canal, which widens out towards the tip, where the sclerenchyma is thin and membranous. In this portion the surface is sinuous, and spines in process of formation are indicated by short, thickened, longitudinal ridges. Below, the spines are short and triangular, arranged in longitudinal rows, five of which are visible from one aspect. The members of a row are from four to five lengths apart. The spines are also disposed in irregular dextrorse spirals, which are more open than in any other species of the genus.

The zooids are subequidistant, about 3 mm. apart. They appear as conical, or subtriangular, elevations, bearing two lateral and opposite tentacles as long as the whole zooid. The oral surface is thickened and rounded. The mouth in the