

their bodies resemble a truncated cone, whose base is applied to the rock to which they are usually found attached. Though generally transparent, yet they are of different colours, as green, red, white, and brown. In some, their colours appear diffused over the whole surface, in others they are streaked, and in others, often spotted. They are possessed of a very slow progressive motion, and in fine weather, they are continually seen, stretching out and fishing for their prey. Many of them are possessed of a number of long slender filaments, in which they entangle any small animals they happen to approach, and thus draw them into their enormous stomachs, which fill the whole cavity of their bodies. The harder shells continue for some weeks indigested, but at length they undergo a kind of maceration in the stomach, and become a part of the substance of the animal itself. The indigestible parts are returned by the same aperture by which they were swallowed, and then the star-fish begins to fish for more. These also may be cut in pieces, and every part will survive the operation; each becoming a perfect animal, endued with its natural rapacity. Of this tribe, the