

thickness throughout, and exhibits no mark of attachment at either end. When broken, it exhibits a radiated surface, like the broken spine of an echinus. The axis appears to have little connection with the fleshy part, and to consist of concentric layers deposited by the soft parts surrounding it. When a portion of the axis is broken off from either extremity, the animal retracts at that part, so as continually to expose a fresh naked portion of the axis : hence we can take out the axis entirely from its soft sheath, and we always find the lower pinnæ of the animal drawn up closely together, as if by the frequent breaking of the base. These very delicate and brittle animals seem to be confined to a small circumscribed part of the coast which has a considerable depth and a muddy bottom, and the fishermen accustomed to dredge at that place believe, from the cleanness of the Virgulariæ when brought to the surface, that they stand erect at the bottom with one end fixed in the mud or clay. Muller's specimens were likewise found on a part of the Norwegian coast with a muddy bottom. The *Polypi*, much resembling those of the common *Lobularia digitata*, are long, cylindrical, transparent, marked with longitudinal white lines, and have eight tentacula which present long slender transparent filaments or ciliæ on each of the lateral surfaces when fully expanded. The polypi are easily perceived extending through the lateral expansions or pinnæ, to near the solid axis, where we observe two transverse rows of small round white ova placed under each pinna, and contained within the fleshy substance. These ova appear to pass along the pinnæ, to be discharged through the polypi, as in the *Lobularia*, *Gorgonia*, *Caryophyllea*, *Alcyonia*, &c." *Grant*.

The figures in our plate were drawn from specimens with which I was favoured by Dr Coldstream, and which had been preserved for some time in spirits ; but to shew the difference between the animal in this contracted condition and when alive, I have placed beside them Figures 5 and 6, copied from Muller. The dissimilarity between figures taken in these different states has rendered the synonymy of the species perplexed and almost inextricable. According to Cuvier, Lamarck, and Blainville, the species delineated by Muller, and which is certainly identical with the British one, is not synonymous with the Linnæan ; but this opinion rests solely upon the circumstance of Linnæus having quoted a figure in the "Mus. Ad. Fr."—belonging confessedly to another Zoophyte—as a representative of the species he intended, which may have been done from the then uncertainty of the limits of the species, or from having seen specimens in spirits only. His character is very applicable to our animal,—