

The ova are placed in the polype-tubes ; they are white at first, but ultimately become of a scarlet colour, opaque, globular, and about the size of a grain of sand. Each ovum is filled with a mass of extremely minute pellucid granules, and is ultimately discharged through the mouth. They seem to be produced in spring and summer, for in June and July I have seen many specimens with not more than three or five polypes developed, and these are as large and perfect as the polypes of the oldest specimens.

Dr Fleming is of opinion, that the *Alcyonium lobatum* of Lamouroux, whose figure I have quoted without any mark of doubt, is a perfectly distinct species, because its tentacula "are sub-cylindrical, rounded at the extremity, and covered above and on the margin with blunt tubercles;" whereas of the *British Alcyonium* "the tentacula in Ellis's figures (and, having compared these with nature, we can pronounce on their accuracy,) are pinnate and pointed." But of these figures of Ellis's, it may be observed that the one he has given in his essay on *Corallines* \* is very unlike the figure of the same parts in his *Nat. Hist. of Zoophytes* ; and I must acknowledge that neither of them correspond with what I have myself seen. When a specimen of *Alcyonium digitatum* is placed in a vessel of sea-water, the polypes protrude themselves amazingly, and extend their tentacula, which are thick, obtuse, grooved along the centre, and not longer than the diameter of the oral disk, being in fact very like what they are represented to be by Lamouroux ; but when these organs are removed and slightly pressed between plates of glass, they become so much elongated that I can readily believe they may, when the animal is active and in its native site, assume the shape and appearance of Ellis's latter figure. And I am thus drawn to the conclusion that the differences in the different figures will not justify the establishment of distinct species, but are to be attributed to the animal being in different states when observed,—a conclusion which a writer in the *Encyclop. Method. Supp.* p. 497, has also come to: "Les figures données par Ellis, Spix et Lamouroux ne se ressemblent guère ; je pense neammoins que cette difference ne peut être rapportée à aucune inexactitude, mais dépend de l'état du polype à l'instant ou il a été dessiné."

The *ALCYONIUM RUBRUM* of *Muller* defined to be "*crustaceum, molle, miniatum, punctis sparsis saturatioribus*,"—*Zool. Dan. prod.* 255, no. 3081,—is, moreover, surely nothing else but this species in its primary crustaceous condition, and of a reddish-orange colour, as

\* This figure it appears, was taken from specimens which had been immersed in spirits. *Introd. to Corall.* p. xii.