

littoral varieties, or such as are alternately submerged and exposed by the recess of the tides, are always strongly warted, generally orange-coloured with dusky blotches, and coated with particles of broken shells, small gravel and pieces of sea-weed, by which means, when contracted, they are detected with difficulty in the recesses or sandy places which they prefer. This foreign covering adheres to the glands with great tenacity, and cannot be removed by any natural causes to which the Actinia is exposed; but what is surely worthy of our admiration, and seems to prove the existence of an instinct even in these lowest creatures, the individuals which are placed in deep water, as if aware they did not require such a mode of concealment, form no extraneous covering, but leave the surface clean, and this acquires then more vivid and varied tints, while at the same time the warts become smaller or disappear. Of these pelagic sorts there are some eminently beautiful: one is of a uniform bright scarlet studded over with pale warts like ornamental beads; another is of a pale sulphur yellow, or greenish with orange-coloured stripes, the oral disk and vesicular lobes borrowing the hues of the wild rose; but they vary in this respect so much that no description can do justice to them or define their limits.

I have little doubt that all the synonymes quoted under this species truly belong to it. Gærtner's figure represents it of a more cylindrical shape than I have ever seen it assume, and with only a single row of rather slender tentacula, which, he says, vary from 18 to 36 in number. Hence the figure we may suppose to have been taken from a young individual, which is certainly the case in the Actinia monile of Mr Templeton.

Dicquemare says—"Of all the kinds of sea-anemonies, I would prefer this for the table; being boiled some time in sea water, they acquire a firm and palatable consistence, and may then be eaten with any kind of sauce. They are of an inviting appearance, of a light shivering texture, and of a soft white and reddish hue. Their smell is not unlike that of a warm crab or lobster." *Phil. Trans. abridg.* xiii. 637.

Ehrenberg divides the family Actiniidæ into two sections,—the second embracing such genera as have glandular pores in the skin. The genus "*Cribrina*," in this section, has *Act. gemmacea* for its type, which is thus far sundered from the species with which it is here associated. Ehrenberg seems to me to have been peculiarly unfortunate in his choice of a character, for if I have studied the animal rightly, so far from being of sectional or generic value, it serves not even to discriminate a species, which may have its smooth and