

expanded, in which state it is of the same diameter as the rest of the cell ; but when the animal retracts is folded up and drawn in after it, and completely closes the mouth of the cell.

“ The flexible part consists of two portions, the lower half being a simple continuation of the rest of the cell ; the upper consisting of a row of delicate bristle-shaped processes or *setæ*, which are arranged parallel with each other round the top of the cell, and are prevented separating beyond a certain distance by a membrane of excessive tenuity, which surrounds and connects the whole. This mode of termination of the cell is one of constant occurrence, as will be described in other species, and is evidently a provision for allowing of the freest possible motion of the upper part of the body in its expanded state, to which it affords at the same time support and protection.” *Phil. Trans. an. 1837, p. 393.*

## 22. VESICULARIA, \* Thompson.

CHARACTER. *Polypidoms rooted, confervoid, fistular, horny, dichotomously branched, jointed at the divisions : cells ovate, disjunct, uniserial and unilateral. Polypes ascidian.*

### 1. V. SPINOSA. Dillenius.

PLATE XXIX. Fig. 1-4.

*Conferva marina cancellata, Raii, Syn. i. 59, no. 11. Dill. Hist. Musc. 24, no. 22, pl. 4, fig. 22,—fide D. Turner in Lin. Trans. vii. 106.—Conferva cancellata, Lin. Syst. ii. 720. With. Bot. Arrang. iv. 131.—Silk Coralline, Ellis, Corall. 20, no. 17, pl. 11, fig. b, B, c, D.—Sertularia spinosa, Lin. Syst. 1312. Ellis and Soland. Zooph. 48. Turt. Gmel. iv. 682. Jameson, in Wern. Mem. i. 564. Bosc, Vers, iii. 118. Stew. Elem. ii. 446. Berk. Syn. i. 219. Turt. Brit. Faun. 215. Lamarck, Anim. s. Vert. ii. 120. 2de edit. ii. 148. Hogg, Stock. 33.—Sert. sericea, Pall. Elench. 114.—Laomedea spinosa, Corall. 91. Templeton in Mag. Nat. Hist. ix. 466.—Valkeria spinosa, Flem. Br. Anim. 551.—Vesicularia spinosa, Thomp. Zool. Ill. 98, pl. 3. fig. 1-8. Farre in Phil. Trans. an. 1837, 401, pl. 22.—La Laomédee epineuse, Blainv. Actinolog. 474.*

*Hab.* In deep water, not uncommon. “ Junio et Julio mensibus pone Sheerness in insula Shepey copiose observavi,” *Dillenius*. “ At the Nore, near the entrance of the Thames,” *Ellis*. Leith shore, *Jameson*. “ Rarely found near Hartlepool,” *J. Hogg*. “ Found on the shore of Belfast Lough : common,” *Templeton*. Liverpool, *Rev. D. Landsborough*.

Polypidom affixed by a fibrous base, very slender, confervoid, of a thin membranous pellucid texture, much branched, erect, sometimes as much as 8 inches in height, usually about 4 ; main branches composed of intertwined capillary tubes, tapered, zigzag ; branchlets arising from the bends, either solitary or in pairs, short, much divided dichotomously, the apices pointed and closed ; all the branches are joint-

\* From *vesicula*, diminutive of *vesica*, a bladder.