

all that is said about Acalephæ and Knidæ, it would seem as if the name of Knidæ applied more particularly to Medusæ, as these are the only ones of which he seems to have known that they possessed burning properties, the nature of which could not have been very clearly understood by him, for he says, when speaking of the Sea Scolopendra (probably some Nereis), that it does not bite with the mouth, but produces with the whole body a painful sensation like that caused by the Knide. The description he gives of the Acalephæ applies particularly well to the Actiniæ, and but for the statement that they free themselves could not be applied to any Medusa. Of the Pneumon, he only states, that they are formed out of themselves.

Neither Pliny¹ nor Aelian nor Oppian nor Galeus, nor the writers of the middle

all; and, suffering from the heat, they retire further among the rocks." In Book VIII. Chap. I. Sec. 3, when, speaking of the intensity of life and its gradations, he considers the marine shells and the Ascidians as intermediate between the higher animals and plants. "The transition from them to the animals is uninterrupted, as has been said before; as to some of those in the sea, one might doubt whether they are animals or plants, for they are attached, and many of them, when separated, are destroyed. In some, the nature of the body is fleshy, as in the so-called Tethya (our Ascidians) and the genus of the Acalephæ. The sponge, however," he adds, "is entirely like the plants"; and in Chap. III. Sec. 3, he says that "the Acalephæ live upon whatever small fishes fall in their way, and that they have the mouth in the middle, which is most evident in the largest ones. They have also, like the oyster, an opening where the food passes out, and this is upward. In a general way the Acalephæ resemble the internal fleshy part of the oyster, and it uses the rock as a shell."

The name Knide occurs twice. First, in Book V. Chap. XIV. Sec. 1, where it says that "the Knidæ and the Sponges, which are found in the clefts of the rocks, though without a shell, multiply in the same way as the shell fishes. There are, however, two genera of Knidæ: one in the hollows, which never frees itself from the rocks; and another, living upon flat, smooth bottom, which detaches itself and moves from place to place." And in Book IX. Chap. XXV. Sec. 4, when speaking of the sea-snakes, he says of the Sea Scolopendra (our Nereis),

that "when it has swallowed the hook, it turns itself inside out until it expels the hook, and then turns itself back again; it does not bite with the mouth, but its whole body produces a painful sensation, like that of the Knidæ."

The name Pneumon occurs but once (Book V. Chap. XIII. Sec. 10), when, speaking of the reproduction and growth of animals, he only says that the so-called Pneumon "is formed from itself," meaning that it is spontaneously generated. From this passage it could hardly be inferred that Aristotle designated an Acalephe under the name of Pneumon. But when we consider how the Grecian colonies were scattered along the shores of the Mediterranean, and that the name Pulmo Marinus was early applied to the large Rhizostoma of the Mediterranean, and even figured under that name by Mathioli; that the Rhizostoma may aptly be compared to a floating lung; and further, that this largest Medusa of the Mediterranean is commonly called Poupon de Mer by the French fishermen,—the conclusion is irresistible, that, if the Latin and French names are not a translation of the Greek "Pneumon," this name is likely to have been given to that large Medusa for the same reason for which the French call it sea-lung. It is singular, however, that Rondelet, who first represented the Rhizostoma, should have failed to recognize it as the Pneumon of the Greeks, and applied the name to a compound Ascidian.

¹ The best edition of the Natural History of Pliny is that published in Paris in 1828 by Lemnre, under the supervision of Ajasson de Grandsagne: