

ment; but, during the latter part of the summer of 1858, I had ample opportunities of tracing it through all its stages, and am now engaged upon a comparative study of its embryology with that of *Bolina* and *Idyia*, which have appeared in unusual abundance this summer. I will therefore postpone the publication of my earlier observations until the more recent ones are completed, and, in order not longer to delay the printing of this volume, pass them over here, and simply state, that before the young has reached one twenty-fifth of an inch in diameter, it has already assumed the appearance of the adult, while in its earlier stages it presents the greatest uniformity in the three types which came under my observation. The sexual organs have the same typical structure as in the other Ctenophoræ, but they are only distinctly visible when the spawning season approaches, late in the summer.

Having recently seen myriads of these animals, it may not be superfluous to add, that all the various attitudes in which I have formerly seen them in confinement may be observed at one glance, when coming suddenly upon a bank of them slowly drifting with the tide. Under these circumstances, however, they are not altogether at the mercy of the current; and it is curious to see how they resist its action by stretching their tentacles in a straight line in opposite directions and at right angles with the vertical axis of the body. I have also satisfied myself that they are aware of the approach of danger; for day after day I have seen thousands of them, which were quietly moving near the surface with the mouth wide open in search of food, suddenly turn upon themselves and with a quick jerk dive into the deep as my boat drew nearer and nearer. In fact, all *Acalephs* dive away from the surface when approached, and make accelerated motions to escape the net or glass dipped into the water to catch them. It seems as if they were endowed with the power of seeing, for noise has no effect upon them.

In conclusion, I would mention the most prominent specific characters of our *Pleurobrachia*. It is the smallest of the genus; of remarkable transparency and throughout hyaline, with a flesh-colored lining of the coeliac cavity, turning to brown at its abactinal end and shining through the body; the tentacles are throughout rose colored, the main thread as well as the lateral threads; the rows of locomotive flappers rather milk-white and iridescent. Inhabits the coasts of New England and Canada, where it is seen through the whole summer. Spawns in August and September.