

to be, or whether part of these differences are the result of imperfect observations, future researches alone can decide, and I trust European zoölogists will soon make a renewed comparison of their species with that of our coast.

From an examination of alcoholic specimens of the European species, which I have obtained since the above was written, I ascertain that the veil not only exists, but is as well developed as in the American species. I cannot, however, detect the lobules between the tentacles, nor are sockets around the base to be distinguished; but this does not yet prove their absence, as the margin of the disk is highly contractile. For the opportunity of examining these specimens, I am indebted to Thomas J. Moore, Esq., of the Free Public Museum in Liverpool, who has lately sent to me great numbers of interesting marine animals from the coast of England, many of which reached me alive, thanks to the care bestowed upon them by my friend, Captain James Anderson, during their passage across the Atlantic.

Mertens has also observed a broad and conspicuous veil in a species from Kamtschatka, which he has figured under the name of *Aurelia limbata*, and upon this character Brandt has founded the genus *Diplocraspedon*; but unless other generic differences are pointed out, this species must be united with the *Aureliae* of Europe and North America, which do not differ in that respect from one another.

There are almost insuperable difficulties to the comparative studies of the species of *Acalephs*. Thus far no attempts have been made to collect and preserve them for repeated study, and the figures and descriptions, which have been published, are generally so imperfect, that it is utterly impossible, from their comparison, to arrive at any kind of satisfactory result as to the true character of the species. Notwithstanding the discrepancies already pointed out between the *Aurelia* of our coast and that of Europe, it may still be questionable whether they differ specifically, if the differences which are apparent by a comparison of the figures of the European species with ours should prove to be the result of imperfect observation. Fabricius, at least, considers the *Medusa*, observed by him on the coast of Greenland, the same as the European species. It should, however, be remembered, that this identification was made at a time when it was not suspected that there could exist specific differences between animals resembling one another very closely; and Fabricius himself described a *Starfish*, also found on the coast of Greenland, as identical with the *Asterias rubens* of Europe, though a direct comparison of American and European specimens has satisfied me that they are quite distinct, as are also many other animals supposed for a long time to be common to the two sides of the Atlantic. I am, therefore, inclined to believe that our *Aurelia* will prove different, and that some of the differences between them, pointed out above, may be specific. I have, on that account, adopted for our species the