

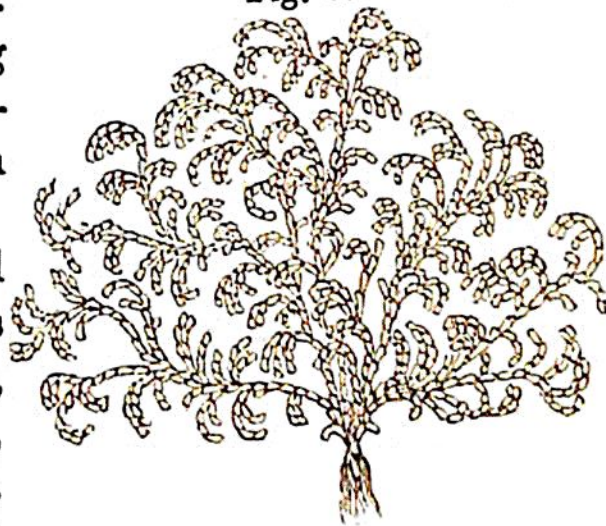
ranged with the last order, but, from M. Savigny's observations, it appears that certain of these animals have neither stomach, mouth, nor tentacles, so that their claims to the possession of animal life, he thinks, might be disputed; but Mr. Bell has discovered that they alternately imbibe and expel the surrounding element, which seems to prove their animal nature. Perhaps they ought to be considered as nearer to vegetable matter than the other polypes.

5. Other *Alcyons** seem to have a more complex organization than any of the preceding polypes; they are stated to have eight parallel stomachs. Only four genera belonging to this order have been described, and its proper station seems doubtful.

6. In the *Sea-Pen* and others,† the animal envelopes an axis, as in the third order, and has a tentacular mouth, but it is not fixed by its base. The greater part of these animals float in the waters, but others remain at the bottom, either upon the surface or partly plunged in the sand.

Polypes are invariably aquatic animals, some inhabiting fresh water, but the great body are marine, and most numerous in tropical seas. In very high latitudes, only cellarians,‡ sertularians,§ alcyons, and some sponges occur, and in the vicinity of volcanic islands in the Polar seas, corallines and gorgonians. These multiply a little from 6° to 9° N. L.: then, as they approach the tropics, the coral reddens, and the madrepores whiten, and at 33° they attain their full powers of growth and multiplication. Some frequent the

Fig. 6.



Cellaria cirrata.

* Polypi tubiferi, Lam.

‡ Cellaria.

† Polypi natantes, Lam.

§ Sertularia.