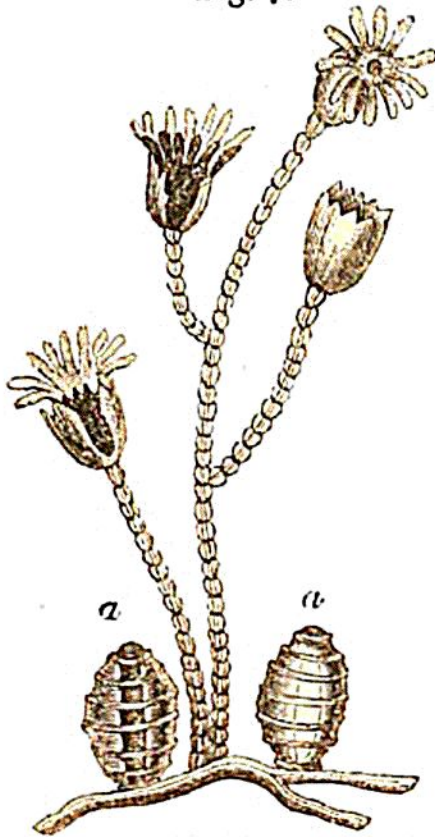


mouths of rivers, where there is a conflux of fresh and salt water. Some love atmospheric influence, while others avoid it. The marine ones frequently plant themselves on rocks in different aspects, often regulated by the climate. They rarely expose themselves to violent currents, or the direct

Fig. 7.



Sertularia volubilis. a. a. Ovaries.

shock of the waves. They are often found in the hollows of rocks or submarine grottoes, and in gulfs where the water is less agitated.

It was observed above that the Infusories present some analogy to the seeds of vegetables; the polypes go further, and represent, often most exactly, the developed plant from the tree, by almost all the intermediate stages, to the fungus, at least the fixed polypes: these appear as it were to take root, to send forth branches which produce seeming blossoms, composed of what appear to be petals arising from a calyx, arranged sometimes in a single and at others in a double circle, and in some including the semblance of stamina; they are also very sensible to the light, and turn to its source, and like plants are readily propagated by cuttings and buds; so that all the older naturalists regarded them as real plants, without apparently suspecting their animal nature. Ancient naturalists were very apt to mistake analogical resemblances for proofs of affinity, but in the progress of science, when natural objects were submitted to a stricter examination, more correct ideas were substituted for these mistaken ones, and the zoophytes, or polypes, were generally admitted to be real animals, though some, after Linné, still regard them as something between