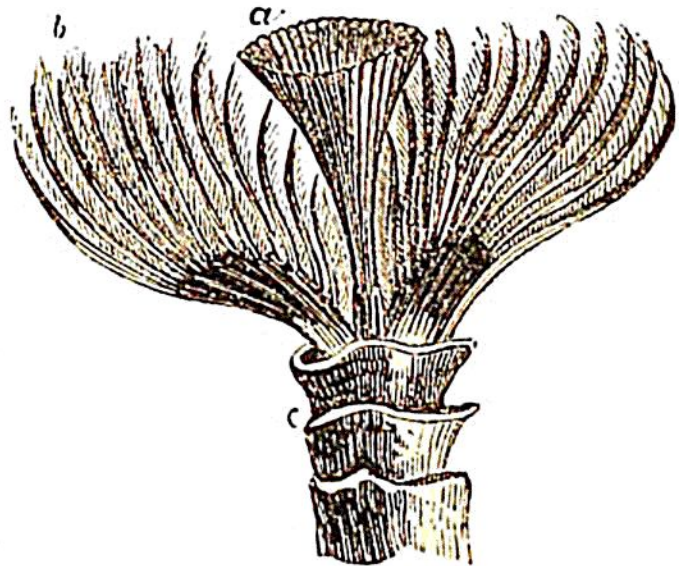


the worm-shells,\* inhabit a tortuous tube which they form, probably with more ease and celerity than the Molluscans form their shells—for they appear almost to do this as they move, since the shape of the shell imitates the sinuous windings of a worm, and that of the *Serpula* adheres to the substances on which it is formed. We see it often upon the shells of bivalves, to which it adheres by the lower surface, looking like a little worm creeping upon them;† and forming convolutions. I have a specimen on a valve of the cock's-crest oyster,‡ which is bound down by a process issuing apparently from the disk of the oyster-shell itself, how produced and thrown over the *Serpula* it seems not easy to conjecture. Different species of these worm-shells are often found, embracing each other with their convolutions, on the same shell; wherever the sea is or has been, they abound either in a recent or fossil state; they are found on rocks and seaweed, as well as on marine shells, and those of lobsters. The Serpulidans, in general, imitate the spiral structure of the Trachelipod and other Molluscans, as is particularly evident in *Siliquaria* and *Vermetus*, if indeed the last genus is not itself a Molluscan, as Lamarck makes it.

Fig. 54.



Head of *Serpula*. *a*. Parasol-like opercular tentacle. *b*. Branchial fringes, or respiratory apparatus. *c*. Upper extremities of the shell.

\* Serpulidæ.

† *S. Triquetra*.

‡ *Ostrea Crista-galli*. Since the above was written, in the collection of the late Peter Collinson, I have seen two specimens of this oyster, which had produced from the back of their shell a double series of processes, with which, as with so many fingers, they had taken firm hold of a piece of stick.