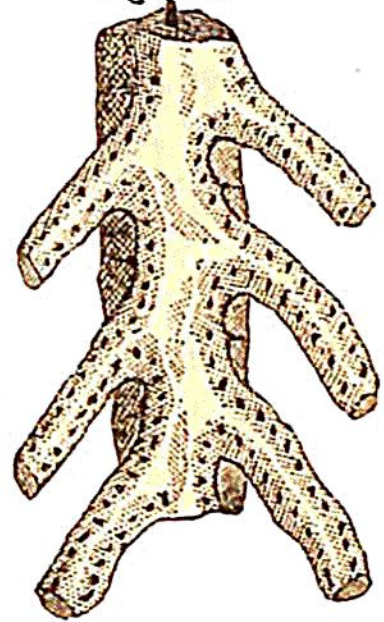


last seems to differ from both, as well in the pelvis, as in the dichotomies, and length of the arms; its suckers likewise appear to be circular,* and not angular as they are described by Mr. Miller under the name of plates.† If this observation turns out correct, I would distinguish the last species by the name of *Pentacrinus Asteria*.



Suckers of *Pentacrinus asteria* (Kirby).

The stem of the Crinoïdeans consists of numerous joints, united by cartilages, which exhibit several peculiarities; in the first place the upper and under side is beautifully sculptured, so as to represent a star of five rays, or a pentapetalous flower; the Creator's object in this structure appears to be the attachment of the cartilage that connects them, and, perhaps, to afford means for a degree of rotatory motion, as well as to prevent dislocations, and also to increase the flexure of the stem according to circumstances and the will of the animal. For the transmission of the siphon, whether a spinal chord, or intestinal canal, or both, each joint of the column is perforated, the aperture being round in some, and floriform in others. The whole stem, with its whorls of branches, exhibits a striking resemblance to the branch of the common horse-tail.‡ The entire structure seems calculated to enable the animal to bend its stem, which appears very long, in any direction, like the Lepadites, and thus as it were to pursue its prey; we may suppose that the branching arms, fingers, and their lateral organs, when they are extended horizontally and all expanded, must form an ample net, far exceeding that of the Cirripedes, which, when they have their prey within its circumference, by converging their arms, and closing all

* Fig. 66.

† Ubi supr. 54. t. ii. f. 6.

‡ Equisetum arvense.