

gating much more abundantly, furnished a good supply of what was evidently a favourite food.

2. *H. VULGARIS*, orange-brown or sometimes oil-green; body cylindrical; tentacula 7-12, as long or longer than the body.

PLATE I.

Polypes de la seconde espèce, *Tremb. Mem. pl. 1, fig. 2, 5; pl. 2. fig. 2; pl. 6. fig. 2 and 8; pl. 8. fig. 1-7; pl. 10. fig. 1-7; pl. 11, 12, 13. figs. omn. partly copied in Adams, Micros, 399, pl. 21. fig. 6.—Hydra vulgaris, Pall. Elench. 30. Ellis in Phil. Trans. lvii. 430. Ellis and Soland. Zooph. 9.—H. grisea, Lin. Syst. 1320. Mull. Zool. Dan. Prod. 230, No. 2784. Verm. i. ii. 14. Ure's Rutherg. 233. Berk. Syn. i. 222. Turt. Gmel. iv. 692. Turt. Brit. Faun. 218. Blumenb. Man. 295. Stew. Elem. ii. 452. Lam. Anim. s. Vert. ii. 60. Bosc, Vers ii. 275. Stark, Elem. ii. 443. Templeton in Mag. Nat. Hist. ix. 418.—H. brunnea, Templeton, loc. cit. 417. fig. 56.—First sort of Polype, Baker, Polyp. 17. c. fig.—L'Hydre commune, Blainv. Actinol. 495.*

Hab. Weedy ponds and slowly running waters Probably common in all parts of the kingdom.

On comparing the descriptions of the authors quoted above, I am led to conclude that this species is either subject to much variety, or that two species have been confounded together, and given rise to a discrepancy which seems otherwise irreconcilable. My own experience inclines me to the latter supposition, but since I have had no opportunities of making observations on specimens from different and distant localities, I deem it more prudent to indicate what appear to be two species as only varieties of the *vulgaris*, until the point can be settled by more leisured naturalists.

Var. a. aurantia, light reddish-brown or orange-coloured; tentacula not longer than the body. Fig. 2.

Var. b. grisea, light olive-green; tentacula paler and longer than the body. Fig. 1.

The first is by much the commoner, and does not exceed the *H. viridis* in size, which it resembles also in its habits and form. It is always of an orange, brown, or red colour, the intensity of the tint depending on the nature of the food, on the state of the creature's repletion, becoming even blood-red when fed upon the small crimson worms and larvæ which usually abound in its haunts.* The ten-

* "I have found a bright red Hydra rather abundant on Putney Heath, near London. It does not much differ, except in colour, from the green one." *J. E. Gray in lit. May 6, 1833.—See Trembley's Mem. p. 47, and 128.*