ii. 259. *Templeton* in Mag. Nat. Hist. ix. 466. *Risso*, L'Europ. merid. v. 313.——I.a P. en faux, *Blainv.* Actinolog. 477.

Hab. On shells and rocks near low water-mark and in deep water. A common and very elegant species, generally from 4 to 6 inches in height, rising in wide spiral turns, and sending out from its filiform percurrent stem, at regulated intervals, alternate spreading plumous branches which are placed one above the other on the outer side. Pinnæ alternate, bifarious. In young specimens the branches are two-ranked and alternate, and I have seen this character remain in one specimen of considerable size. There are no cells on the spiral stem, but they occur on the branches as well as on the pinnæ, and are arranged in two rows pointing alternately to opposite sides. There is a fine figure of the coralline in the centre of the curious frontispiece to Ellis's Essay; and the magnified figure in tab. 38 is a more correct representation of the cells than that given in tab. 7, which has been drawn from a dried specimen. The ovarian vesicles are of uncertain occurrence, and I have seldom seen them; they are scattered irregularly on the branches, stalked, ovate or pear-shaped, with a short tubulous aperture, and occasionally wrinkled longitudinally when dry.

"This species is very common in the deeper parts of the Frith of Forth; its vesicles are very numerous, and its ova are in full maturity at the beginning of May. The ova are large, of a light-brown colour, semi-opaque, nearly spherical, composed of minute transparent granules, ciliated on the surface and distinctly irritable. There are only two ova in each vesicle; so that they do not require any external capsules, like those of the Campanularia, to allow them sufficient space to come to maturity. On placing an entire vesicle, with its two ova, under the microscope, we perceive through the transparent sides, the ciliæ vibrating on the surface of the contained ova, and the currents produced in the fluid within by their motion. When we open the vesicles with two needles, in a drop of sea-water, the ova glide to and fro through the water, at first slowly, but afterwards more quickly, and their ciliæ propel them with the same part always forward. They are highly irritable, and frequently contract their bodies so as to exhibit those singular changes of form spoken off by Cavolini. These contractions are particularly observed when they come in contact with a hair, a filament of conferva, a grain of sand, or any minute object; and they are likewise frequent and remarkable at the time when the ovum is busied in attaching its body permanently to the surface of the glass. After they have fixed, they become flat and circular, and the more opake parts of the ova assume a radiated appearance; so that they now appear, even to the naked eye, like