

This species, in its most perfect state, rises to the height of 8 or 10 inches. The stem is as thick as small twine, straight, opaque, and composed of many tubular threads twisted together. It does not properly divide itself, but sends off branches from all sides, which are either opposite or alternate, and much ramified into diverging branchlets, each of them marked with three or four rings at its base, and terminated with a bell-shaped polype-cell of a very thin corneous texture. A specimen of this description from Shetland, in the collection of my friend Dr Coldstream, is figured in Plate XXIII.

But more commonly *Laom. gelatinosa* is found in a much humbler condition, and under a guise that requires for its discrimination from *Laom. geniculata*, a careful examination. It occurs thus in Berwick Bay, growing gregariously on the sides and under surface of stones lying in shallow pools between tide-marks, and seemingly giving a preference to those that contain an impure or brackish water. The shoots are all connected with one another by the radicle fibre which creeps in an irregular manner along the rock; they are rarely above an inch in height, simple or sparingly branched, consisting of a single tube of a light corneous colour and texture, ringed above the origins of the long twisted filiform pedicles on which the polype-cells are raised. These cells are deeply cupped, transparent, with a wide even margin. Vesicles urn-shaped, smooth, shooting from the axils of the pedicles. They are matured during the summer months, when we find them filled with ova of a circular flat-tish form, marked with a dark speck in the centre. At first they fill not more than half of the vesicle, but by their increase in size they soon come to occupy the whole cavity, and are ultimately extruded from the top, after which the empty vesicle soon disappears. The ova while in the vesicle are arranged round a central placentular column, and the lid which closes the vesicle is a mere dilatation of this column, which appears to be composed of two pieces soldered together, and bulged at intervals, where perhaps the ova are more immediately affixed in their immature state.

The Polypes have about twenty long filiform tentacula roughened with minute tubercles placed in whorls. In their centre is the mouth, which assumes the shape sometimes of a rounded projecting tubercle, sometimes of a narrow column, and sometimes of a broad flat disk with a stricture under it simulating a neck. It leads directly to the stomachal cavity which is large and undivided, and I have occasionally witnessed within it currents of a fluid filled with minute granules, as has been more fully noticed by Mr Lister and Dr Fleming.

Milne-Edwards, in the belief of there being a specific difference between the zoophytes described by Pallas and Fleming, has propos-