

las also tells us that his *Pennatula cynomorium* differs from the *Alcyonium* only in this, that the former is a moveable, and the latter a fixed polypidom; and he saw with equal clearness, the connection which exists between these genera and the shrub-like *Gorgonia*. Of the *Pennatula mirabilis* he had entertained doubts whether it was not rather a species of *Gorgonia* until he perceived that the stem was attenuated at each end and free; and of the *Sea-Pens* generally, Ellis remarks, that they are “a genus of zoophytes not far removed from the *Gorgonias*, on account of their polype mouths, as well as having a bone in the inside, and flesh without.” On the other hand the *Gorgoniæ*, says Pallas, seem, with the exception of their horny skeleton, to be nearly similar in structure to the *Alcyonia*; but as there are species of *Gorgonia* which are suberose internally and almost of a uniform medullary consistence, even this mark of distinction fails to separate the tribes, and we have little left to guide us in arranging these osculant species excepting their external habit, or, if we may so express ourselves, their physiognomy. *Gorgonia Briareus* has been described by some authors as an *Alcyonium*; and Pallas would have enumerated the *Gorgonia radicata* in the same genus, had not its gorgon-like habit interfered. I am satisfied that no zoophytologist can examine Ellis’s figure and description of *Gorgonia suberosa* without being convinced that it pertains rather to the congenerous family, or holds at least very debateable ground between them.

The names which the fishermen have conferred on the polypidoms of this order will convey to the student a better idea of their general appearances than any laboured description. The *Pennatulæ* in their language are *Sea-Pens*; the *Virgulariæ* are *Sea-Rushes*; *Sea-Paps*, *Deadman’s hand* or *Dead-man’s toes*, if not agreeable, are yet expressive names for the *Alcyonia*; and the *Gorgoniæ* are *Sea-shrubs* when they branch away irregularly, but when the branches inosculate and form a sort of net, they become *Sea-Fans*, which some naturalist, of more than our usual fancy, has appropriated to the use of *Venus*—*Flabellum Veneris*.\*

\* Ray has especially called attention to the fan-like growth of submarine bodies. —“That the motion of the water descends to a good depth, I prove from those plants that grow deepest in the sea, because they all generally grow flat in manner of a fan, and not with branches on all sides like trees; which is so contriv-