

FAMILY V. GORGONIADÆ.

14. Gorgonia,* Linnæus.

Character.—Polype-mass rooted, arborescent, consisting of a central axis barked with a polypiferous crust: the axis horny, continuous and flexible, branched in coequality with the polype-mass: the crust when recent soft and fleshy, when dried porous and friable: the orifices of the polype-cells more or less protuberant.

1. G. VERRUCOSA, much and irregularly branched, the branches spreading laterally, cylindrical, flexuous, barked when dry with a white warted crust: segments of the cells unequal, obtuse. Cole. †

PLATE XXV. Fig. 1.

Frutex marinus flabelliformis, Raii, Hist. Plant. iii. 7. Sir H. Sloane in Phil. Trans. abridg. (an. 1746) ix. 198, pl. 4, fig. 4.—Keratophyton flabelliforme, cortice verrucosa obductum, Raii, Syn. 32.—Erica marina alba frutescens, Petiv. Mus. cent. prim. 9, no. 50.—Warted Seafan, Borl. Cornw. 238, tab. 24, fig. 1.—Gorgonia verrucosa, Lin. Syst. 1291. Pall. Elench. 196. Ellis and Soland. Zooph. 89. Turt.

- From Gorgon—the name of a daughter of Phorcys, whose locks of hair were changed into serpents by Minerva.
- † Ray, in his Historia, mentions Mr, afterwards Dr, Cole of Bristol as the finder of this zoophyte on the coast of Cornwall. Cole is well known to naturalists by his ingenious enquiry into the purple liquor of the Purpura lapillus.