

ment.”\* The supposition readily explains some facts which have given rise to an opinion of their viviparous generation, for the young will be born alive if the easy admission is made that some of the ova may have their egress delayed until they have passed through their first stages of evolution. That many ova, and probably by much the greater number, escape previously to this is now well ascertained.

Mr Teale's description of the ovaries varies also from Spix's, and is very accurate. In *Actinia gemmacea* he tells us they form “ elongated masses attached along the inner border of most of the leaflets. Each ovary is composed of several horizontal folds or plaits, which, when unfolded, show this structure to be about three times the length it assumes when attached to the leaflet. By carefully spreading out these folds, the ovary, with the assistance of a lens, is seen to consist of two very delicate layers of membrane, enveloping a closely compacted layer of ova. After enveloping the ova, the membranous layers are placed in apposition, and form a kind of mesentery, by which the ovary is attached to the internal border of the leaflet. The two layers afterwards separate to pass one on each side of the leaflet, thereby lining the interseptal spaces from which this membranous investment is prolonged into the tentacula, as well as into the cavities within the structure of the lip and mouth. At the summits of the tentacula, and of the tubular eminences of the lip, the membrane becomes continuous with the common integument, whilst at the inferior part of the interseptal spaces it is continuous with the digestive sac. The breadth of the ovaries is nearly uniform from the top to the bottom. Some irregularities are occasionally observed in their attachment to the leaflets. Sometimes one leaflet supports two ovaries, and not unfrequently two neighbouring ovaries are continuous with each other at their inferior extremities.” †

The period of propagation is probably, in most *Helianthoidea*, not limited to any particular season. According to the observations of Cavolini the *Caryophyllia* matures its ova in spring; and it is only at this season that I have found the *Lucernariæ* on

\* Leeds Phil. and Lit. Soc. Trans. i. 111. † Lib. supra cit. p. 104.