

the body will after a time produce new tentacula "pretty near as they were before the operation;" while the upper portion swallows food as if nothing had happened, permitting it indeed at first to come out at the opposite end, "just as a man's head being cut off, would let out at the neck, the bit taken in at the mouth," but which it soon learns to retain and digest in a proper manner. In an experiment of this kind, the upper half, instead of healing up into a new basis, actually produced another mouth and tentacula, so that an animal was formed which caught its prey, and fed at both ends at the same time! If again the section of the body is made in a perpendicular direction so as almost to divide it into two halves, these halves unite again in a few days. If the section is complete, two perfect individuals is the result; and to complete the wonder, if the body is torn away and only a portion of the base remain, from this fragment a new offspring will sometimes rise up to occupy the place of its parent!\* Yet these creatures, almost indestructible from mutilation and injury, may be killed in a few short minutes, by immersion in fresh water.

### 21. LUCERNARIA,† Muller.

CHARACTER. *Body somewhat campanulate, fixed when at rest by a narrow disk or stalk: mouth quadrangular, in the centre of an umbrellar expansion: tentacula disposed in widely separate tufts on the margin.*

1. L. FASCICULARIS, "peduncle of the body produced: tuft of tentacula in pairs, about a hundred in each." Rev. Dr Fleming.

Lucernaria fascicularis, *Fleming* in Wern. Mem. ii. 248, pl. 18, fig. 1, 2.

*Flem*: Brit. Anim. 499. *Templeton* in Mag. Nat. Hist. ix. 304. *Blainv.*

*Actinolog.* 664.—Lucernaire fasciculaire, *Lamouroux* in Mém. du Mus. ii. 470.

*Hab.* Common in Zetland, where "it is chiefly found on the leaves of *Fucus digitatus* and *F. esculentus*, which grow in deep water," *Fleming*. "Found on the coast at Donaghadee, after a strong easterly gale, adhering to a fragment of *Fucus serratus*," *Templeton*.

"Colour dark brown; peduncle cylindrical, flexuous, wrinkled, with a narrow base; body bell-shaped, subquadrangular, concave; margin divided into four pairs of arms, concave within; mouth central, tubular, consisting of a loose membrane, four notched at the tip,

\* *Dicquemare* in Phil. Trans. abridg. xii. 640, &c.; xiv. 129. Yet, according to the same excellent naturalist, a wound or rent of the *basis* of an *Actinia* often proves fatal. xiii. 637.

† From *Lucerna*, a lamp.