

ZOOPHYTA BRITANNICA.

ORDER IV.

Z. ASCIDIOIDA.*

CHARACTER.

Polypes aggregate, the mouth encircled with filiform ciliated retractile tentacula; a distinct stomach, with a curved intestine terminating in an anus near the mouth; ova internal.—Polypidoms very variable,—either horny fistular and confervoid, or calcareous, membranous, or fibro-gelatinous, formed of cells connected and arranged in a determinate and usually quincuncial manner.

OBSERVATIONS.

IN the preceding orders we found reason to conclude that the polypidom of the Hydroida was a sheath disconnected, or at least not in organic union, with the soft pulpous matter which it invests and protects; that the corresponding part in the Asteroida, become an interior skeleton or axis, held the same relation to its polypiferous crust; nor was this relation altered when the polypidom had again, in the Helianthoida, assumed an external position, forming an integral part of the epidermis. In all these instances the polypidom appears to be unorganized, and when once formed, beyond the reach of change from either the polypes or its own inherent powers; † but in the present

* This order corresponds with the POLYZOA of Thompson, the BRYOZOA of Ehrenberg, the BRYOZOAIREs of Milne-Edwards, and the CILIOBRACHIATA of Farre. Our order Hydroida Farre designates NUDIBRACHIATA, thereby indicating the absence of cilia on the tentacula; and Milne-Edwards *les SERTULAIRIENS*. His *ALCYONIENS* is synonymous with our Asteroida; and the *ZOANTAIRES* with Helianthoida, but Farre unites these under the name of ANTHOZOA, borrowed from Ehrenberg.

† “Unorganized non-vascular parts are produced by an organized matrix, and grow by the continued deposition of new matter *on one surface*.” Müller's Elements of Physiology, p. 384.