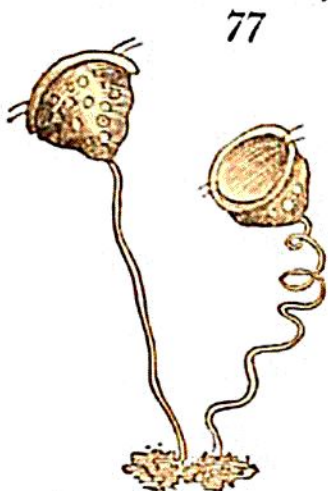


The *Zoanthus* (Fig. 58) belongs to a tribe of larger polypi, which are generally met with assembled in clusters; on which account it is termed by Ellis the *Actinia sociata*, or cluster animal flower. It consists of a globular body, having a mouth surrounded by one or two rows of tentacula; and connected below with a firm and fleshy tube, which adheres strongly to the rocks at the bottom of the sea, so that it remains permanently fixed in the same place.

The genus *Vorticella* is formed by a small tribe of animals, which, although they have been usually included under the present order, differ from polypi in having no tentacula, but only cilia, surrounding the margin of a bell-shaped body, which is mounted upon a long and slender foot-stalk (Fig. 77.*) Currents are, as usual, excited by the vibrations of the cilia; which in the simpler species, such as the



Vorticella cyathina, here delineated, are the efficient instruments of progressive motion. When attached by its foot, the vorticella advances in search of food, by the extension of the foot-stalk into a straight line; but quickly retreats from danger, by suddenly throwing it into spiral folds. Many of the species of vorticellæ are so exceedingly diminutive as to be imperceptible without the aid of the microscope. They conduct us, therefore, by a natural gradation, to the next order we have to notice, and which is composed wholly of microscopic animals.

§ 4. Infusoria.

THE Infusory animalcules, or *Infusoria*, were so named by Muller, a Danish naturalist, from the circumstance of their swarming in all infusions of vegetable or animal substances which have been kept for a sufficient time. They are, in general, far too minute to be perceptible to the naked eye: it is to the microscope alone, therefore, that we owe our

* They also differ from polypi in having a distinct intestinal canal, with numerous stomachs.