

had got before, so that no further light was thrown upon the curious question of its occurring in that peculiar semi-mineralized state at so great a depth.

I give here a preliminary notice, under the name of *Ophiacantha chelys* (Figs. 16 and 17), of a pretty little brittle star which was found clinging to several of the branches of coral. It is, however, so different in aspect from such typical species of the genus as *O. spinulosa* and *O. setosa* that I have some

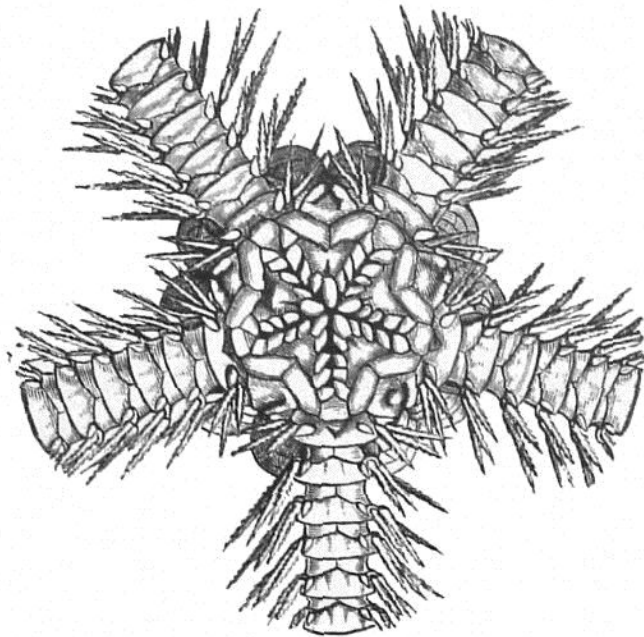


FIG. 17.—*Ophiacantha chelys*, WYVILLE THOMSON. Oral aspect of the disk. Four times the natural size. (No. 87.)

hesitation in associating it with them; indeed, I should scarcely have done so had it not been that the described form which approaches it most nearly is undoubtedly *Ophiacantha stellata*, LYMAN. I think it very likely that when we have an opportunity of studying the mass of new material which has been pouring in for the last three or four years, it may be found necessary to reconsider the genera of the Ophiuridea as at present defined, and to revise their limits. The diameter of the disk in *Ophiacantha chelys* is, in an ordinary example, 8 mm.; the width of the arm near the base 2 mm., and the arm is about three and a half times the diameter of the disk in length. The disk is incised in the centre of the space between the arms so deeply as