

rated, with a small convex umbilicus in the centre. The costæ, which correspond with the septa, are distinct to the centre, finely spinous and granulated, subequal, the primaries and secondaries slightly the larger. The septa are subequal, spinous, the larger slightly lobed; in six regular systems and four complete cycles. The septa of the fourth cycle are connected by their inner edge with those of the third, and the latter with those of the second; the points of connection are sometimes expanded into a plate; the primary septa reach the centre without any connection. The columella is rudimentary, sometimes covered with a calcified membranous expansion through which some of the spines project. The synaptacula are large, and correspond to one another in the contiguous chambers so as to form four to six more or less regular concentric circles.

This species has been proved by our dredgings to be one of the most constantly recurring of deep-sea animals, with a world-wide distribution. It has been dredged by us fifteen times; it occurred in the North and South Atlantic, near the ice-barrier in the Southern Sea, off the West Indies, in the North and South Pacific Oceans, and among the Moluccas. It has a more extended range in depth than almost any other animal, having been obtained by us in 30 fathoms off Bermudas, and at all intermediate depths down to 2900 fathoms. Specimens from 2900 fathoms were obtained with the soft parts preserved; and specimens from 2300 fathoms, of which thirty or more were obtained at one haul, were full of ripe ova. *Fungia symmetrica* is the only coral which has yet been obtained from a depth greater than 1600 fathoms; it occurs on all kinds of bottoms—on globigerina ooze in the Atlantic, among growing branched corals (*Madracis asperula*) off Bermudas, on a bottom composed almost entirely of the frustules of diatoms in the Southern Sea, and on red clay with manganese nodules in the North Pacific. It sustains a range of temperature from 1° to 20° C.