

*alabastrum* (fig. 283), dredged off the Azores from 1000 fathoms. It measures when adult 65 mm. in breadth and 50 mm. in height. The coral skeleton is of a beautiful light pink colour, and is very thin and fragile. Two of the adult specimens obtained were alive when brought up, and expanded themselves in sea water, notwithstanding the depth from which they came. They have ninety-six tentacles disposed in cycles with

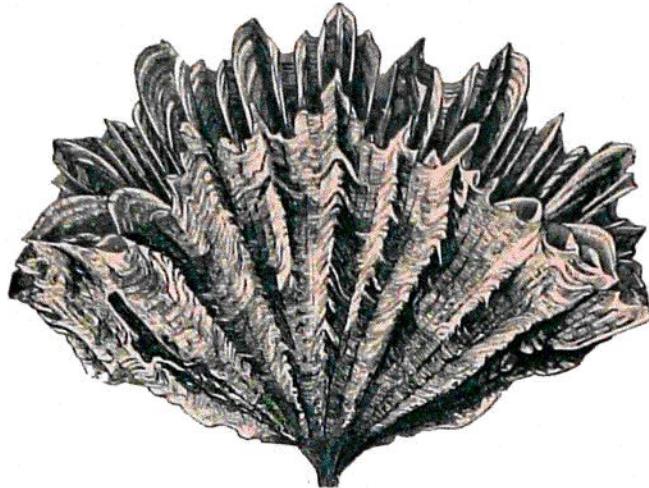


FIG. 283.—*Flabellum alabastrum*, Moseley; slightly enlarged. Off the Azores, 1000 fathoms.

perfect regularity. The colouring is remarkably bright for deep-sea animals: the tentacles are light red, and between their bases are stripes of yellowish red and pale greyish, the inner margin of the disk is of a dark madder colour, and the remainder of the disk pale pink. The madder colouring matter is a peculiar substance, "polyperythrin," which yields three distinct absorption bands in the spectrum, and which is widely

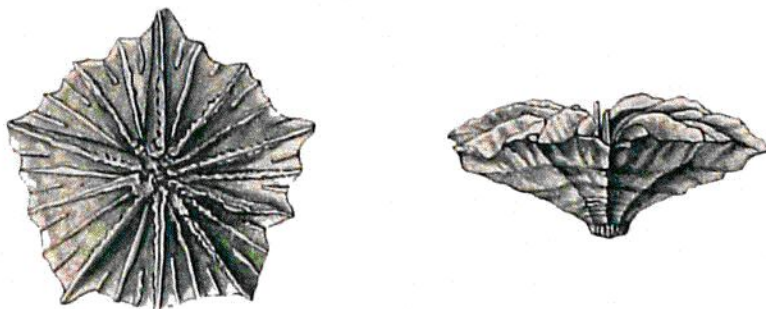


FIG. 284.—*Flabellum angulare*, Moseley; natural size. Off Nova Scotia, 1250 fathoms.

distributed amongst Cœlenterates, being found in many deep-sea Actinias and also in surface-swimming Scyphomedusæ. It is this colouring matter which gives the madder tint to the skeletons of all the Flabellums.

"*Flabellum angulare* (fig. 284) is a remarkable form nearly approaching *Desmophyllum*. It was dredged off Nova Scotia in 1250 fathoms. The specimen figured is obviously abnormal in its arrangement in fives. A specimen with the normal six