

is the commonest. With their prehensile claws they climb about among the hydroids and red algæ, hooking themselves on by their hind limbs, swaying to and fro for a time, and then catching hold of another branch with their front claws and climbing farther. In fairly sheltered localities we often get among the branches of the hydroids and algæ little tube-shaped dwellings constructed out of various materials and inhabited by different species of amphipods,¹ and here, too, we meet with some kinds of pycnogonids.²

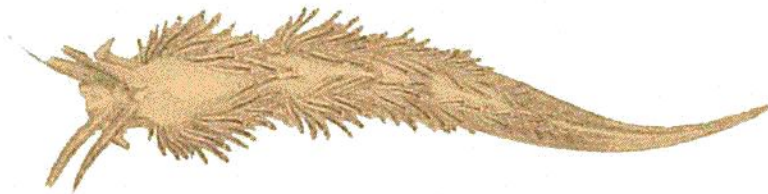


FIG. 330.
Æolis rufobranchialis, Johnst. (After Alder and Hancock.)

Beautifully coloured nudibranchs (usually species of *Æolis*, and especially *Æolis rufobranchialis*, see Fig. 330) crawl slowly about and feed like the pycnogonids upon the hydroids; certain kinds of nudibranchs (especially some species of *Doris*, see Fig. 331, *Polycera*, etc.) occur chiefly in the winter. Animal groups that are very numerous represented in the algæ-vegetation of the littoral zone, though they must be very carefully searched for, are rhabdocœlous turbellaria and several species of Halacarids. There are, in addition, quantities of the young of *Mytilus*, asterids, etc. Among the "roots" of the laminaria we frequently get *Nereis*, *Ophiopholis aculeata*, and borer mussels (*Saxicava*).



FIG. 331.
Doris tuberculata, Cuv. (After Alder and Hancock.)

Zostera belt.

In contradistinction to *Laminaria hyperborea*, which prefers the most exposed situations, where there are waves or strong currents, as well as hard bottom to which to attach itself, we find the eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) in enclosed sheltered localities (pools, estuaries, etc.) and upon soft muddy bottom. The fauna of the eelgrass is not nearly so rich in species as that of the laminaria, still there are several characteristic forms living mainly, and perhaps exclusively, in its vicinity. There is, for instance, a small whitish semi-trans-

¹ Especially species of the family Podoceridae, characterised by the extremely hairy antennæ.

² *Nymphon brevirostre*, *Phoxichilidium femoratum*, *Phoxichilus spinosus*, etc.