

into muscular septa and reproductive septa. The animals do not appear to draw the oral disk over the mouth, though a mesodermal muscle is present.

The external appearance of the Actiniæ, for which I have formed the new genus *Ophiodiscus*, recalls that of *Anthea cereus*, as the tentacles are of great length, project in a single row on the outer margin of the oral disk, where it is turned over into the wall, and hang down like flowing hair over the side walls of the body. The margin of the wall was also not drawn over the oral disk as in the Paractidæ. It would, however, be rash to conclude from the form presented by the animals before me that they are quite incapable of concealing the oral disk, and the more so as I succeeded in finding a mesodermal sphincter. It is possible, however, that, considering the size of the body, the sphincter is not very strongly developed, so that the contraction caused by it is a slow process.

A further point which distinguishes *Ophiodiscus* from the other Paractidæ is the constitution of the tentacles. As one wall of the tentacles is formed by the prolongation of the body wall, the other by the prolongation of the oral disk, they show the same differences in the distribution of the muscles which characterise the said sections of the body wall. The former only has longitudinal muscles, the latter is without muscles and is correspondingly thinner walled.

The differentiation of the septa into sterile septa with muscles and reproductive septa with weak muscles is still more important. The latter are extremely rudimentary, and have even lost the mesenteric filaments; whilst in other Actiniæ a distinct gradation in size prevails in the separate cycles of septa, there is a pronounced distinction between the smallest muscular septa and the reproductive septa. It may be advisable at some future time to erect this form into a special family.

*Ophiodiscus annulatus*, n. sp. (Pl. X. figs. 1-10).

Wall surrounded close below the tentacles by numerous circular furrows, caused by the sphincter, which become less distinct towards the lower part of the wall.

*Habitat*.—Station 299. December 14, 1875. Lat. 33° 31' S., long. 74° 43' W. Depth, 2160 fathoms. Four specimens.

*Dimensions*.—Height, 0·5-1·8 cm.; breadth of the oral disk, 2·0-4·5 cm.; breadth of the pedal disk, 1·0-3·5 cm.

Before proceeding to describe *Ophiodiscus annulatus*, I wish to make a few preliminary remarks as to the state of preservation in which I found the animals in question. It was unfortunately extremely unsatisfactory, which I regret the more as they are a particularly interesting form. In all the specimens the tentacles were tattered and frayed out at the end, and there were rents here and there in the wall between the insertions of the septa. The largest specimen was so much destroyed that I could not take any measurements from it. All this must be ascribed to the fact that the animals came from a great depth, and had been injured in hauling up the dredging apparatus. The animals have, moreover,