have greatly lessened the probability of Hæckel's view being correct, as in the mature animal the number of the septa is always even, but otherwise very variable. In *Sicyonis crassa*, on the other hand, we have before us an animal in which the number four is as persistent as the number six in the Hexactiniæ, and which, moreover, has the same paired arrangement of the septa as we meet with in the existing hexamerous corals. It is therefore quite possible that the Sicyonidæ and Tetracorallia may be closely related.

Sicyonis, n. gen.

Sicyonidæ, with discoid, flattened body, smooth wall, and alternating reproductive septa and muscular septa.

Sicyonis crassa, n. sp. (Pl. IV. figs. 1-9).

Sixty-four wart-like tentacles placed in two alternating rows; circular muscle weak; oral disk covered with numerous fine radial furrows.

Habitat.—Station 147. December 30, 1873. Lat. 46° 16′ S., long. 48° 27′ E. Depth, 1600 fathoms. One specimen.

Dimensions.—Height, 2 cm. Diameter of the pedal disk, 7 cm.; of the oral disk, 9 cm.

The new species, which I have named *Sicyonis crassa*, is one of the most interesting Actiniæ dredged from great depths, both on account of the constitution of the tentacles and of the arrangement of the septa. The body of the single specimen before me is cake-shaped, as the transverse measurement of the pedal disk amounts to 7 cm., and that of the oral disk to 9 cm., whilst the height only amounts to 2 cm. The height would, however, certainly be greater in a natural state, as the animal had been very much compressed in the packing.

The body is tolerably tough, more, however, from the thickness of its walls than from the firmness of its tissue. The consistency of the latter is between that of cartilage and of gelatinous tissue, and consists in all parts of the body of a homogeneous fundamental substance enclosing numerous extremely small cells. The fundamental substance is also traversed by numerous bundles of fibrillæ, which become very distinct in preparations stained with carmine. These bundles have a wavy course, and become connected from time to time so as to form a reticulate framework. It was not possible to recognise the natural colour of the animal.

The pedal disk (fig. 2) is marked by radial furrows; a large number, more than 100, begin at the margin, of which some reach the centre, whilst others do not extend so far. Their course is irregularly waved and indented, and they correspond to the insertions of the septa inside the animal.