

groups of closely approximated plumes. The mesial nematophore is provided with an imperfect septum near its distal extremity. The most remarkable fact, however, connected with the species is the occurrence of two different forms of corbula—a closed and an open—in the same colony. The closed corbula is rather short, and with its rachis so curved as to give it a somewhat crescentic form, with the concavity looking downwards. The curvature of the open corbula is less marked. In the open form the costæ are entirely distinct from one another; they are oval in outline, each margin set with tubular denticles, and every costa having a tubular spur-like denticle at its base. On the proximal margin of every costa in the open corbula, and close to its origin, is a slit-like aperture which leads into its cavity.

I am unable to assign a meaning to the presence of two different kinds of corbula in one and the same colony, and I do not know of a similar occurrence in any other species. That the two kinds of corbula are not different stages in the development of a single form would appear from their similarity in size, and the apparently mature condition of both, with their thick chitinous periderm; nor is it likely that at the time of maturity the closed corbula had become converted into the very differently formed open one by a process of dehiscence. Though in none of the open corbulæ could I find gonangia, it is yet possible that the difference may indicate a difference of sex. It is also possible that the open form may be an abnormal and imperfect condition of the corbula, not essential to the species, or universally occurring in it. With this uncertainty I have deemed it better not to include the presence of two forms of corbula as an essential character in the diagnosis of the species.

*Aglaophenia filicula* is an inhabitant of the deeper sea zones, having been dredged along with *Aglaophenia acacia*, at Station 75, July 2, 1873, lat. 38° 37' N., long. 28° 30' W.; depth, 450 fathoms; bottom, sandy.

*Aglaophenia attenuata*, n. sp. (Pl. XI. figs. 7–9).

*Trophosome*.—Colony attaining a height of about two inches; stem slender, monosiphonic, slightly and irregularly branched; hydrocladia very short, scarcely exceeding one-twentieth of an inch in length, alternate. Hydrothecæ closely approximate, deep, margin deeply dentate, with the mesial tooth bifid, anterior wall depressed just below the margin; intrathecal ridge well marked, extending transversely across the hydrotheca, at the junction of the lower and middle third of its walls; mesial nematophore stout, adnate to the walls of the hydrotheca for somewhat more than half their height, and then extending as a short, thick, free beak, which does not reach the margin of the hydrotheca; lateral nematophores stout, reaching the level of the hydrotheca margin.

*Gonosome*.—Corbula open, with about seven pairs of costæ, which are quite distinct from one another, and carry a row of tubular denticles on each margin; rachis with a spur-like denticle at the base of each costa.