

border toothed or furnished with chitinous aculeate spines. One or more chitinous spines of larger size than the rest articulated on the front of the zoecium below the aperture, or an articulated avicularian process in the same situation. Oecia when present galeate.

Electra, Lamouroux.

Electra, Lamx., 1816; d'Orb., 1851.

Electrina, *Reptelectrina*, d'Orb.

Flustra, sp., Gmelin; Bosc; Ell. and Soland.; Lamk.; Lister, &c.

Sertularia (pars), Linn., Esper.

Membranipora (pars), Auctt.

Annulipora, Gray.

Eschara (sp.), Pallas.

Character.—That of the Family.

The very peculiar conformation of the species included in the genus *Electra* seems to me amply sufficient to justify its erection into the type of a distinct Family, as proposed thirty years ago by M. d'Orbigny.

Three or four, or perhaps five, species have been described, which may be included in it, viz. :—

- Electra pilosa*, (Linn.).
 „ *verticillata*, Lamx.
 „ *triacantha*, Lamx.
 „ *bellula*, Hincks.
 „ (?) *distorta*, Hincks.

The last must perhaps be regarded as an aberrant form. To these the Challenger collection has made one addition, which, however, differs so widely from the others that it might with some reason be regarded as more than specifically distinct.

Electra cylindracea,¹ n. sp. (Pl. XXXIII. fig. 2).

(Nec, *Electra cylindrica*; d'Orb.).

Character.—Zoarium radicate, cylindrical, simple or branched. Zoecia disposed in annular series round an imaginary axis and very closely crowded. Front pyriform, wide above and much contracted below. Border of aperture thin, smooth, with a straight ascending chitinous spine on each side at the top; and close below these two thick clavate, curved spines or horns. Aperture wide, rounded or oval. Oral orifice very wide,

¹ When I put the appellation at the bottom of the plate, I had overlooked the circumstance that d'Orbigny had already employed the same name "*cylindrica*" for what is probably merely a variety of *Electra verticillata* or of *Electra pilosa*.