

St. Paul's Rocks, off the West Indies in abundance ; it is represented in the East Indian region by other allied species. One of the most remarkable instances known of world-wide geographical distribution in a deep-sea animal is the case of *Bathyactis symmetrica* (fig. 287), a solitary discoid coral provisionally placed with the Fungiadæ. This coral varies in the most remarkable manner in size and also greatly in structure. It was obtained of all intermediate sizes from a diameter of 3 mm. only to one of 40 mm., yet the series obtained was so large and complete that there can be no doubt that all the specimens belong to one species. It was further obtained from all depths intermediate between 30 fathoms, off Bermuda, and 2900 fathoms, in the East Pacific Ocean. From the latter locality some of the finest specimens were obtained, and these were crowded with ova and embryos in early stages of development. No relation could be established

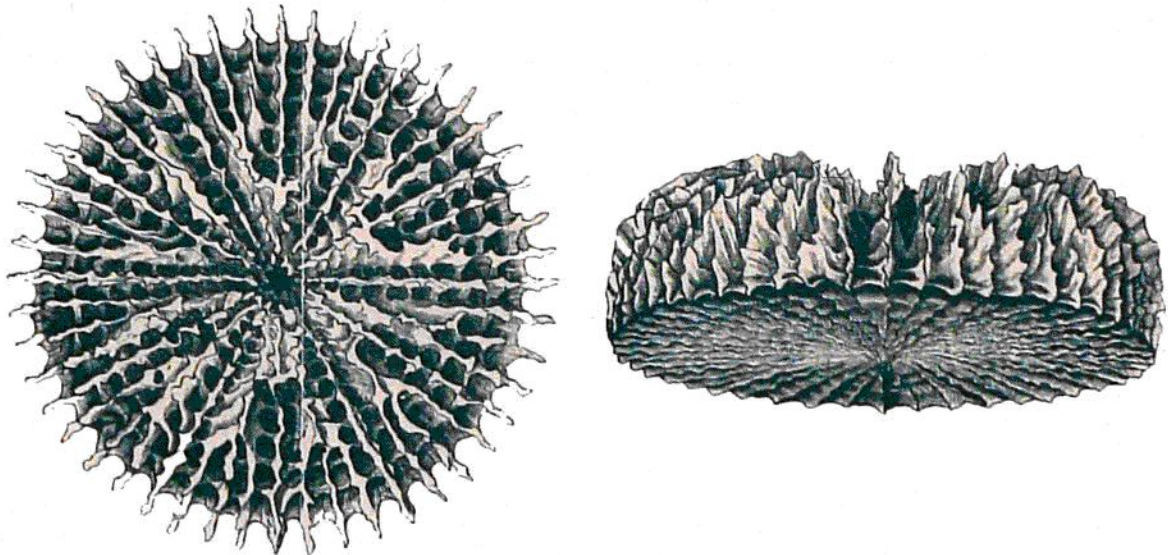


FIG. 287.—*Bathyactis symmetrica*, Moseley ; three times the natural size. Dredged west of Tristan da Cunha Island, from 1900 fathoms.

between the temperature, nature of the bottom, or other physical conditions, and the size of the specimens. The coral was obtained frequently in both the North and South Atlantic, the South Indian Ocean, in the Malay Archipelago, in the West and East Pacific, off Japan, and off Juan Fernandez.

“ A very interesting form from a palæontological point of view is *Stephanophyllia complicata* (fig. 288), which was dredged off the Ki Islands from 129 fathoms only. This coral is the close ally of the *Stephanophyllia* of the Chalk and Tertiary deposits. It apparently most nearly approaches *Stephanophyllia discoides* of the London Clay. The septa, which are nearly free and straight in the young coral, become most remarkably fused together at intervals laterally in the adult, giving the coral a curious honeycombed appearance. As far as is yet known, the genus *Stephanophyllia* survives only in this remote spot in the East Indies, its present locality being in no way connected with its former one in Europe.