

of the body or more. Integument thin, but rather hard and brittle, with larger and smaller, irregularly rounded, perforated plates, either scattered or crowded, and then covering one another with their edges; each plate bearing near its centre one or more small spines or processes.

Colour in alcohol, light grey, glassy or violet. Length of the largest specimen, 204 mm. Breadth, 86 mm.

Habitat.—Station 146. December 29, 1873. Lat. $46^{\circ} 46'$ S., long. $45^{\circ} 31'$ E. Depth, 1375 fathoms; bottom temperature, 1.5° C.; globigerina ooze. Station 157. March 3, 1874. Lat. $53^{\circ} 55'$ S., long. $108^{\circ} 35'$ E. Depth, 1950 fathoms; diatom ooze. Station 160. March 13, 1874. Lat. $42^{\circ} 42'$ S., long. $134^{\circ} 10'$ E. Depth, 2600 fathoms; bottom temperature, 0.2° C.; red clay. Station 241. June 23, 1875. Lat. $35^{\circ} 41'$ N., long. $157^{\circ} 42'$ E. Depth, 2300 fathoms; bottom temperature, 1.1° C.; red clay. Station 244. June 28, 1875. Lat. $35^{\circ} 22'$ N., long. $169^{\circ} 53'$ E. Depth, 2900 fathoms; bottom temperature, 1.2° C.; red clay. Station 281. October 6, 1875. Lat. $22^{\circ} 21'$ S., long. $150^{\circ} 17'$ W. Depth, 2385 fathoms; bottom temperature, 0.8° C.; red clay. Station 299. December 14, 1875. Lat. $33^{\circ} 31'$ S., long. $74^{\circ} 43'$ W. Depth, 2160 fathoms; bottom temperature, 1.1° C.; grey mud. Station 325. March 2, 1876. Lat. $36^{\circ} 44'$ S., long. $46^{\circ} 16'$ W. Depth, 2650 fathoms; bottom temperature, 0.4° C., grey mud.

Having obtained a smaller or greater number of individuals from each of the above localities, a great abundance of material has been at my disposal. As the name indicates, this species is represented in many varying forms, individuals not only from different localities but even from the same station presenting considerable diversities. If I had only had the opportunity of examining a few forms I should doubtless have made the mistake of referring them to several different species, but on account of the abundance of material, I have been able to observe a series of gradations filling up the intervals between the extreme forms. All the specimens evidently belong to the same species, though they may possess one or more differences which at first may appear to be of such importance that they could not be classed under the head of variations. The size varies extremely, the smallest individuals reaching only a length of 35 mm. and a breadth of 10 mm., while the largest ones attain gigantic dimensions. The difference in the general appearance of the body depends upon the number of pedicels and processes, which in its turn would seem to depend upon the size of the animal, so that the larger individuals would be provided with a greater number than the smaller ones. However, this is not always the case. The largest specimen, for instance, dredged at Station 146, and reaching a length of about 204 mm., has only fifty-six processes, while another individual from Station 241, having only a length of 170 mm., possesses about seventy; another animal dredged at Station 160, about 46 mm. long, carries only nineteen pedicels and nineteen processes, while a considerably