

be aimed at is the understanding of things, and their description in words few and familiar. Confusion does not arise from employing the same word in various ways provided the context be well written. Does anybody fall into doubt about a yard, a back-yard, a steel-yard, a yard-arm, a whin-yard, or a vine-yard? A word changes meaning with each new combination, or surrounding, or tone. No one mistakes the sarcasm of, "You're a pretty fellow!" or the tenderness of, "What a pretty child!"

DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES.

Family, OPHIURIDÆ.

The Ophiuridæ are a family in the order of Starfishes characterised by a more or less sharply-defined central disk containing a simple digestive cavity which does not radiate into the slender rounded arms, and has no anal opening. The arms have an axis composed of jointed vertebra-like sections (arm bones), each made up of two ambulacral pieces soldered side by side. The axis is cased with plates, of which the single row, covering the under side, is peculiar. The plates on the sides bear spines. Each arm bone is pierced by a water tube, destitute of a bulb, and supplying the imperforate tentacle which is bedded in the bone itself. The halves of the first two arm bones are swung laterally, into the interbrachial space and soldered together to form the mouth angle,¹ and in them are set the mouth tentacles which are watered by a forking tube from the mouth ring. On either side of the base of each arm, above and below, run two stout pieces, the radial shield and genital plate, which are joined at the margin of the disk and connected by an adductor muscle. In the lower interbrachial space, parallel with and close to each arm, are one or two genital openings that enter a peculiar sac, the genital bursa, with which communicate spermatic or ovarial tubes. The inner angle of each lower interbrachial space is occupied by a single plate, the mouth shield, and one of these serves as the madreporic body.²

¹ Dr Ludwig considers the peristomial plate lying above the mouth angle as the junction of the first two ambulacral pieces, a view I hesitate to adopt, since this plate is in no way connected with either of the mouth tentacles, and because it may be composed of one, two, or three pieces, or be wanting altogether.

² For an epitome of the finer anatomy of Ophiuridæ, see P. H. Carpenter, the *Minute Anatomy of Brachiote Echinoderms*, Quart. Journ. of Micros. Soc., April 1881, p. 169.

For the bibliography of the two families, see T. Lyman, *Ill. Cat. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, No. i., 1865, p. 5; No. vi. p. 5, 1871. H. Ludwig, *Echinodermen des Mittelleeres*, Mittheilungen des Zoologischen Station zu Neapel, vol. i., No. 4, 1879.

For description and comparative nomenclature of the hard parts see T. Lyman, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. iii., part 10, 1874, p. 260, pl. i.