

Up to the present time the only known species referrible to *Melicerita* were two, or perhaps three, fossil forms, viz. :—

1. *Melicerita charlesworthii*, Milne-Edwards.
2. *Melicerita angustiloba*, Busk.
- (?) 3. *Melicerita (Latereschara) achates*, d'Orbigny.

Of these the first two are probably of Miocene age, belonging one to the Coralline Crag of England, and the second to beds, supposed to be of the same age, in Australia and New Zealand. M. d'Orbigny's species, if it be properly referred to the genus, belongs to the Cretaceous epoch. The discovery, therefore, of living forms at a considerable depth in the South Atlantic is one of very great interest, though they do not, so far as I can perceive, present any advance in organisation.

(1) *Melicerita atlantica*, n. sp. (Pl. XIV. fig. 1).

*Character*.—Zoarium simple or lobate, probably radicate; about 0".25 wide. Areas hexagonal, usually arched above. Surface finely granular, sloping gradually and evenly to the orifice, which in the fresh state is surrounded at some distance by a slender chitinous ring incomplete above. Orifice large, central, suboval or oblong; lower border straight or slightly concave. Peristome thickened, with a minute internal denticle on each side below, none (?) above. Oœcial orifice a crescentic slit beneath the upper angle of the area. Avicularia 0.

*Habitat*.—Station 320, lat. 37° 17' S., long. 53° 52' W., 600 fathoms, hard ground.

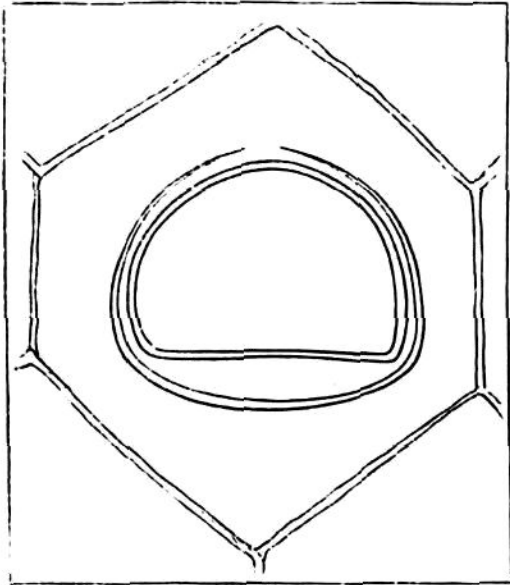


FIG. 15.—*Melicerita atlantica*.

In the narrow or ligulate form of the zoarium, *Melicerita atlantica* resembles *Melicerita angustiloba*, though it is somewhat broader. But in essential particulars the two differ very widely. In *Melicerita angustiloba* the lower border of the orifice is deeply notched on either side, or may be said to present a wide, straight-edged mucro. In it also, as in *Melicerita charlesworthii*, there are two large internal denticles above,

Bk., appears to be articulated, and that "it should be united with *Cellaria (Salicornaria)*," thus concurring in the view I had expressed. But it is by no means on account of the zoarium being articulated that this union should be made. It would be impossible to separate generically *Melicerita charlesworthii*, Milne-Edw., from *Melicerita angustiloba* and *Melicerita atlantica*, n. sp., the former of which is foliaceous and undoubtedly continuous, whilst the latter two may or may not be so. The mere fact of articulation, therefore, is of little consequence, nor in fact is it so in the genus *Salicornaria* itself.