

It is concealed in the smaller specimen by the large and prominent anal tube which projects forwards over it. The original of *Hyponome sarsii*, the "recent Cystidean," was the disk of a plated *Antedon*, very probably of this species, *Antedon multiradiata*.

Allusion has already been made to the frequency with which these disks are met with in an isolated condition; and their resemblance to the curious Palæozoic forms *Agelacrinus*, *Lepidodiscus*, &c., is very striking. I know that Sir Wyville Thomson had a suspicion whether these problematical organisms may not have been the separated disks of some one or other of the numerous Palæocrinoids, as suggested by Lovén and Lütken.¹

Deep ambulacral grooves with strongly plated sides are also met with on the disk of *Actinometra strota*. This species is very common at Cape York, and its disk, which was also obtained in an isolated condition, may be nearly bare, or plated very completely, as is shown in Pl. LIV. fig. 10, and Pl. LV. fig. 2. The whole of the large interpalmar area in which the anal tube is situated is covered with more or less scaly plates, which become stouter and more granular in the neighbourhood of the subcentral anal tube. The sides of the deep ambulacra are bounded by numerous smaller plates without any definite arrangement. But they are strictly limited to the disk, not extending on to the arms. The large size of this armature, relatively to the tentacles and the ambulacral groove proper, is well shown in the cross-section represented in Pl. LIV. fig. 11. Much of it extends beneath the water-vessels, and corresponds to what Müller called the subambulacral plates of *Pentacrinus*² (Pl. LXII.).

Actinometra jukesii is another species which is common at Cape York. The large anal area is often beset with numerous irregular plates, many of which bear nodules of variable size (Pl. LV. fig. 1). They are smaller on the base and sides of the anal tube; and there are few or none in the small interpalmar spaces between the edge of the disk and the circumferential ambulacra, which are themselves devoid of supporting plates, though deep like those of *Actinometra strota*.

Some species, both of *Antedon* and *Actinometra*, have the ventral perisome of disk and arms entirely devoid of any continuous plating; though this may be strongly developed between the lower divisions of the rays, sometimes extending up to the level of the third axillary.

C. THE VISCERAL SKELETON.

I use the term "visceral skeleton" to denote the numerous spicules and networks of limestone which occur more or less plentifully in the bands of connective tissue that traverse the visceral mass of the Comatulæ. It also includes the more or less regular plates, often quite well defined, which occur *within* the disk of *Pentacrinus*. They are

¹ *Canad. Nat.*, 1869, p. 268.

² *Bau der Echinodermen*, pp. 57, 58, Taf. vi. figs. 7, 9, d.