

2435 fathoms; Globigerina ooze; bottom temperature 36°·5 F. One nearly complete specimen, and one stem with the basal ring attached, but wanting the rest of the calyx.

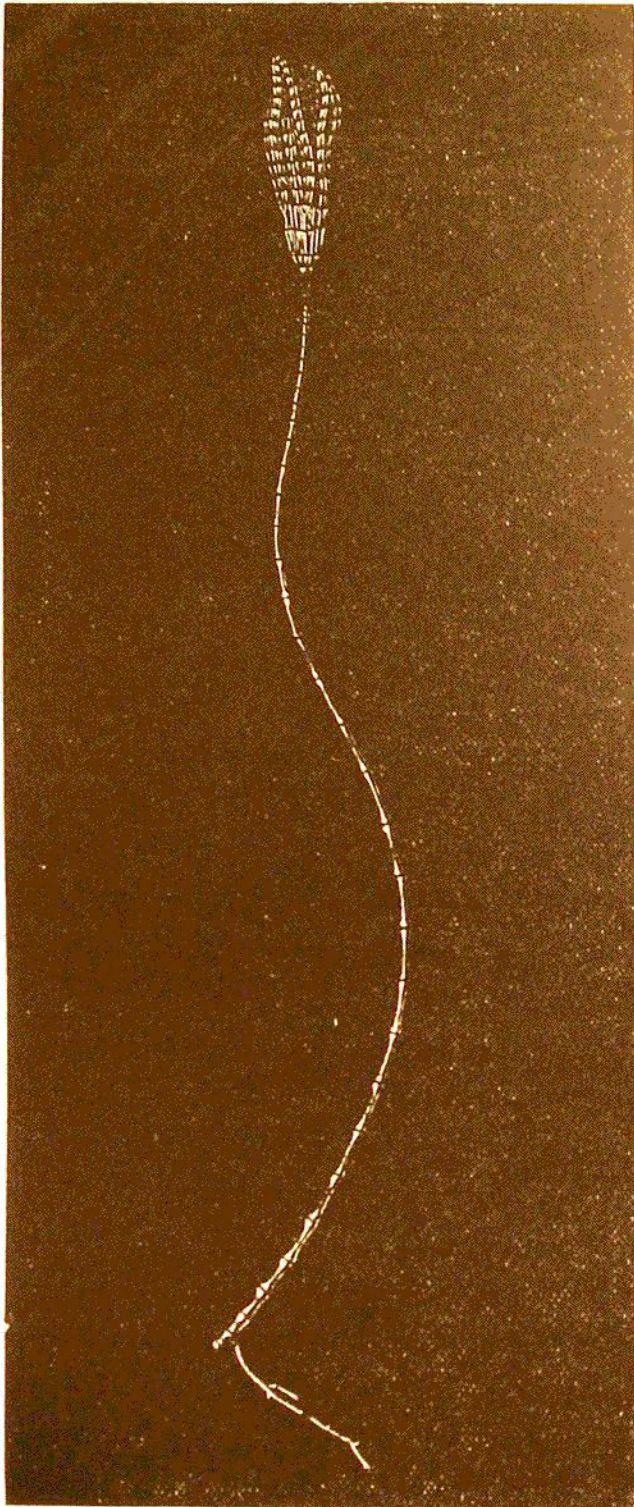


FIG. 16.—*Bathycrinus gracilis*, Wyville Thomson; twice the natural size.

Remarks.—The shortness of the arms and the absence of well grooved pinnules indicate that the single specimen of this elegant little species is not fully developed. Sir Wyville Thomson¹ said that “there is no trace of pinnules, and the arms resemble in character the pinnules of *Rhizocrinus*.” There are, however, little stumps on the terminal joints of one or two of the arms which give them the appearance of bifurcation, just as at the growing point of the arms of a young *Comatula* or *Pentacrinus*; and I see no reason to doubt that these stumps are the commencing pinnules.

I have already pointed out that the arm-joints of *Bathycrinus gracilis* are united in pairs exactly like those of *Bathycrinus aldrichianus* and *Rhizocrinus*, except that in the latter genus the union is a syzygial one; and the supposed resemblance of the arms of *Bathycrinus gracilis* to the pinnules of *Rhizocrinus* thus disappears.

As might be expected from its geographical position, *Bathycrinus gracilis* comes nearer to *Bathycrinus carpenteri* than to either of the Challenger species. The lower stem-joints are strongly constricted with markedly expanded ends as in that type; but the absence of orals, the well defined medio-dorsal keel on the radials and arm-bases, and the serrate condition of the arms are sufficient to distinguish it without difficulty.

During the expedition of the “*Talisman*” in 1883² a few much mutilated specimens

both of *Bathycrinus gracilis* and of *Rhizocrinus rawsoni* (*Democrinus parfaiti*, Perrier)

¹ *The Depths of the Sea*, p. 452, 1873.

² *Comptes rendus*, t. xcvii. p. 1392. See also H. Fillhol, Voyage du “*Talisman*” in *La Nature*, No. 572, 17th May 1884, p. 391.