

## Family HERMELLIDÆ.

The number of species procured by the Challenger is comparatively small, probably because the group is a shallow water or littoral one, as, indeed, the localities given by the foreign authors together with the habits of European forms show.

Kinberg describes seven species, of which six are new, and under no less than five new genera. Schmarda gives four species, chiefly from the littoral zone. Grube describes one from the Philippines and one in the series collected by the "Gazelle."

The occurrence of Nematoid parasites and Gregarinæ in the alimentary canal is interesting.

It is curious that no large masses of the tubes of the Hermellidæ come either from the Cape or the Australian region where they are common.

Dr. Baird<sup>1</sup> states that an example of this group (*Sabellaria saxicava*) bores in somewhat soft rock in Esquimalt Harbour, Vancouver Island. This is an unusual feature.

*Sabellaria*, Lamarck.

*Sabellaria (Pallasia) johnstoni*,<sup>2</sup> n. sp. (Pl. XLVII. figs. 5, 6; Pl. XXVA. figs. 16-23).

*Habitat*.—From the littoral region, St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands.

A species of considerable size, measuring about 40 mm., inclusive of the tail, and 4.5 in diameter at its widest portion.

The body is divided into three well-marked regions, viz., the cephalic, anterior, and posterior, and in addition the tail constitutes a long appendage.

The cephalic region is split from the anterior margin to the base of the dorsal hooks superiorly, and ventrally as far back as the mouth. This wide division gives the anterior region a characteristic appearance, which is further intensified by the dark brownish mottling of the dorsal aspect. Moreover, a dark brown belt runs along the outer margin of the opercular region, and as the papillæ in this are pale, they appear like a series of white studs. From the dorsum the divergence of the halves of the opercular region is very marked, the junction being characterised by a broad groove with a chitinous hook at each side. These hooks (Pl. XLVII. fig. 5) are large and powerful, and strongly curved toward the somewhat sharp extremity. A reserve hook of similar shape is present at the base dorsally, its unworn tip being more acute than the older. These organs are probably of considerable importance in the economy of the animal, as for attaching it to the margin of its tube or other convenient structure. Unfortunately, however, no

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, February 10, 1863.

<sup>2</sup> After Dr. George Johnston, of Berwick-on-Tweed, whose labours amongst the British Annelids deserve grateful remembrance.