

The mouth-plates are large, prominent, and convex actinally, presenting a broad and rounded, but centrally rather flattened, margin towards the actinostome; and the median suture of the pair is imperfectly closed. Their armature consists of a marginal series of five mouth-spines on each plate, the innermost one being twice or three times as long and robust as the others, which are subequal and rather widely spaced. On the actinal surface of each plate are three (or sometimes only two) robust tapering spinelets, standing wide apart and forming a line parallel to the median suture; these do not appear to attain the size of the superficial actinal spinelets on the adambulacral plates. The surface of the plates is covered with membrane, and no other spinelets are present.

The actinal interradial areas are of very small extent, and do not reach beyond the fifth adambulacral plate. The size and number of the intermediate or ventral plates is undeterminable in spirit specimens on account of the membrane with which they are overlaid. So far as can be judged, they appear to be comparatively large, and are certainly few in number. A few of these bear one, or occasionally two, small spinelets 1.5-2 mm. in length.

The anal aperture is subcentral but indistinct, surrounded by large spinelets.

The madreporiform body, which is large and oval, is situated midway between the centre of the disk and the odd interradial supero-marginal plate. Its surface is slightly convex, finely grooved with numerous highly convoluted striation furrows, and has on that account a remarkable resemblance to the "brain" coral. Several large spinelets surround its margin, the largest being at its adcentral end.

The papulæ are very small and numerous, but confined to an area at the base of the rays, which does not extend beyond the fourth supero-marginal plate. The area occupies nearly the whole breadth between the supero-marginal plates, and extends well upon the disk, but no papulæ are present along a broad band which traverses the median interradial line.

No pedicellariæ of any kind are found upon this species.

Colour in alcohol, a dirty bleached ashy grey.

*Individual Variation.*—There is a fragmentary specimen from Station 235, in a very bad condition, of a much smaller example than the type above described, in which the spines of the actinal surface generally are proportionately much more delicate. From their length and character, I am disposed to consider this a feature of individual or even locational variation, rather than a phase of growth; a remark, however, which is merely conjectural, for its validity could only be proved by the examination of a large series of specimens.

*Localities.*—Station 237. Off the coast of Japan, south of Kawatsu. June 17, 1875. Lat. 34° 37' 0" N., long. 140° 32' 0" E. Depth 1875 fathoms. Blue mud. Bottom temperature 35.3 Fahr.; surface temperature 73.0 Fahr.