

of the larval stem and those of the West Indian *Pentacrinus*, and so proposed to call the European form *Phytocrinus*. This was rendered unnecessary, however, by J. V. Thompson's discovery that *Pentacrinus europæus* is the young stage of *Antedon rosacea*; and it is now clear that *Kallispongia*, Wright, is a real Comatulid larva, and not a mimetic Keratose sponge, as was at first supposed.

An attempt has recently been made by Walther¹ to re-establish *Solanocrinus*, Goldfuss, as a genus distinct from *Antedon*. I do not think, however, that there are any really good reasons for this change. The fossil species which Walther refers to *Solanocrinus* appear to him to present no syzygial unions in the arms, and this is the only character of any real generic value which he can bring forward as separating *Solanocrinus* from *Antedon*. I have explained elsewhere,² however, that the absence of syzygies in the arms of *Solanocrinus costatus*, *Solanocrinus imperialis*, and *Solanocrinus gracilis*, is to my mind less certain than Walther believes; while I strongly suspect from his figures and descriptions that in all these three types the two outer radials are united by syzygy, just as in *Antedon fluctuans* and *Antedon multiradiata* (Pls. VIII., IX.). I cannot therefore yet acquiesce in Walther's restoration of Goldfuss's genus, though it is quite possible that this course may become necessary at some future time.

De Fréminville did not give any etymology for his new generic name *Antedon*, and no clue as to its gender is to be obtained from the name of his single species *Antedon gorgonia*. But when the genus was re-established by Mr. Norman in 1865 he used *Antedon* as a masculine noun, and in this course he was followed by Sir Wyville Thomson, Dr. Carpenter, M. Sars, Lütken, Marion, von Marenzeller, Greeff, Ludwig, and others. In 1877, however, it was determined by the late Mr. Spedding³ that *Antedon* is really a feminine name, and should be more correctly spelt *Anthedon*. Since that date it has been used as a feminine noun by Pourtalès, Ludwig, Duncan and Sladen, Bell, Verrill, J. V. Carus, Greeff, Dr. Carpenter and myself; though Schlüter, Rathbun, Marshall, Herdman, Dendy, Vogt and Yung, Walther, and, till lately, Perrier, have continued to use it in the masculine gender. In Perrier's latest publication,⁴ however, the following passage occurs about the name:—" *Antedon rosaceus* qui, selon la remarque de Victor Carus doit être remplacé par celui d'*Antedon rosacea*, *Antedon* étant une nymphe. Ce savant exposé est suivi d'une étude des mœurs des *Antedon* qui contient plusieurs constatations intéressantes." As I was unable to find the authority for Perrier's statement in any of the zoological works of Professor Carus, I wrote to him upon the subject, and he was good enough to inform me that the facts referred to by Perrier had been contained in a letter and not in any of his published works. He also kindly gave me a reference to the

¹ Untersuchungen über den Bau der Crinoideen, Palæontographica, 1886, Bd. xxxii. p. 175.

² The Generic Position of *Solanocrinus*, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1887, ser. 5, vol. xix. pp. 81-88.

³ *Nature*, 1877, vol. xv. p. 366.

⁴ Mémoire sur l'Organisation et le Développement de la Comatule de la Méditerranée (*Antedon rosacea*, Linck) *Nouv. Archiv. Mus. Hist. Nat.*, Paris, 1886, t. ix. fasc. 1, p. 79.