

examples all the joints except those just at the base are much wider than long (Pl. XXVIII. figs. 1, 2), the later cirrus-joints of the Scotch variety are relatively shorter and thicker, so that in the extreme forms they are actually wider than long (Pl. XXVII. figs. 23, 24).

The longest cirrus which I have found in specimens from the Tunis coast measures 52 mm., and contains forty-seven joints, while in one from the Minch there are fifty-one joints, though the length is only 47 mm., and in the most extreme forms from this locality there are forty-eight joints in a length of but 35 mm. I have pointed out elsewhere¹ that these two types of cirri, apparently so different, are linked together by a complete series of intermediate gradations, in all of which there is a great amount of variation in the characters of the terminal claw and of its opposing spine. Evidently, therefore, the only character of the cirri of *Antedon phalangium* on which we can at all rely as having a sufficient degree of stability for specific distinction is the great number of their component joints. This is common to *Antedon proluxa* and to *Antedon hystrix*, and it serves as a convenient means of separating these three species from the large group which embraces *Antedon rosacea*, *Antedon tenella*, and similar forms with shorter and fewer jointed cirri.

Marion² has described the second radial of *Antedon phalangium* as "profondément enchançrée pour recevoir l'axillaire, qui est très-grande." The four figures which he gives of the calyx certainly bear out his statements. But I have seen individuals from Marseilles that I owe to his kindness, and others from the Tunis coast, which have much less quadrate axillaries, and therefore also less deeply incised second radials. Other examples from the Tunis coast correspond to Marion's figures; but in most of these and in all the Scotch specimens the second radials are oblong in their general outline, and but little incised, while the axillaries are subtriangular, subquadrate, or more usually pentagonal, with their bases curving slightly outwards. Not unfrequently there are forward projecting lateral processes on the second radials which are much more marked in some individuals than in others. The axillaries may have slight processes of the same kind, and they are continued on to the first brachials as a sort of flattening of their outer sides, thus affording an approach to the condition of the *Basicurva*-group.

The two first brachials, just like the two outer radials, vary considerably in their shape and mutual relations. Thus, for example, in the four individuals figured by Marion the two joints borne by the axillary are well separated from one another above its distal angle, and the second brachials have an irregularly quadrate shape. But in the specimens dredged by the "Dacia" on the Seine Bank the second brachials are almost triangular in outline, and the two joints below them are closely united above

¹ On the Variations of the Form of the Cirri in certain Comatulæ, *Trans. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.)*, 1886, ser. 2, vol. ii. pp. 475-480, pl. lvii.

² *Ann. d. Sci. Nat. (Zool.)*, 1879, sér. 6, t. viii. p. 43, pl. xviii. fig. 11.