

however, by its smaller size, lesser number of cirrus-joints, and by the different proportions in the lengths of the first two pairs of pinnules. Like *Antedon proluxa*, too, it ranges from shallow water down to 700 fathoms; but it has a much more extensive geographical range.

Fischer¹ has recently come to the conclusion, which I believe to be an erroneous one, that the specimens which were described by Duncan and Sladen² under the name *Antedon proluxa* are in reality but "ausgewachsene Exemplare" of *Antedon sarsii*, auct., i.e., of *Antedon tenella*. Two of the four Comatulæ which he obtained at Jan Mayen clearly belong, as he himself states, to *Antedon proluxa*, as defined by Sladen. The length of an incomplete arm in the larger one is 120 mm. The cirri, composed of twenty-eight to forty-three joints, vary in length from 20 to 60 mm.; the first pinnule with twenty-eight joints is 14 mm. long, and the second with twelve joints reaches only 4.3 mm.³ It appears from these numbers that Fischer's larger specimen is somewhat better developed than Sladen's type, with which it is evidently identical. Fischer has further compared it with the two individuals which were obtained in the Barents Sea by the "Tegetthoff," and were referred by Dr. E. von Marenzeller to *Antedon sarsii*.⁴ Fischer's conclusion is expressed in the following passage,—“Wenn man nun erwägt, dass mit Ausnahme der durch die Grössenverhältnisse bedingten Unterschiede (das grössere der von Marenzeller beschriebenen Exemplare hatte Arme von nur 80 mm. Länge) nämlich die geringere Anzahl von Ranken-Gliedern,—sonst keine Abweichungen zu verzeichnen sind, so muss man nothwendigerweise zu der Überzeugung gelangen, was ich übrigens an der Hand der später zu beschreibenden Jugendzustände des Weiteren ausführen werde, dass unter *Antedon proluxa*, Sladen nur ausgewachsene Exemplare von *A. Sarsii*, welche bislang noch nicht erschöpfend beschrieben waren, zu verstehen sind.”

The largest cirri of the "Tegetthoff" specimens have thirty-three joints and reach 37 mm. long. These dimensions are altogether exceptional for *Antedon tenella*, in the Scandinavian examples of which there are usually not more than eighteen or twenty cirrus-joints, while there may be about twenty-five in those from the Kara Sea and the Færoe Channel, and twenty-eight or thirty in the American variety, with a maximum length of 24 mm.⁵ I cannot help suspecting therefore that the "Tegetthoff" specimens may really be the young of *Antedon proluxa*. Dr. von Marenzeller was kind enough to send them to me for examination in 1881, and I have hitherto regarded them as he seems to have done, viz., as abnormal forms of *Antedon sarsii* (*tenella*). At the time I examined them I was unacquainted with *Antedon proluxa*, and the possibility of their being the young forms of this type never occurred to me. But in the six years which have passed since then I have seen many examples both of *Antedon*

¹ Echinodermen von Jan Mayen, *Die Österreiche Polarstation Jan Mayen*, Bd. iii., Wien, 1886, p. 30.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 77, pl. vi. figs. 7-10.

³ This is accidentally printed as 43 mm. in Fischer's paper.

⁴ *Denkschr. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Wien*, 1877 (1878), Bd. xxxv. p. 381.

⁵ Figs. 3, 4 on Pl. XXXI. represent the average cirri of the Færoe Channel and American varieties respectively.