

*Other Localities.*—S.S. "Dacia," 1883; lat. 34° 57' N., long. 11° 57' W.; 533 fathoms.

The "Talisman," off Rochefort; 1500 metres.

The Caribbean Sea; abundant from 73 to 278 fathoms.

*Remarks.*—This singular species will be fully described and its variations illustrated in the Report on the Comatulæ of the "Blake" dredgings. It was first obtained by the "Porcupine" in 1870, though I never saw the type till 1883, nearly five years after it had been described by Pourtalès from the dredgings of the "Hassler" expedition at Barbados in 1872; and the Challenger had taken it at St. Paul's Rocks in the following year. The "Hassler" specimens were described by Pourtalès under the specific name *alata*; but at the same time he described an apparently different form from an unknown Caribbean locality as *Antedon pulchella*;<sup>1</sup> and when I subsequently found reason, after examining the rich material obtained by the "Blake" in 1878–79, to unite the two forms under one specific name,<sup>2</sup> *pulchella* seemed more appropriate than *alata*. I therefore described the type as *Actinometra pulchella*. It has been found at over thirty localities in the Caribbean Sea, ranging from 73 to 278, and possibly to 380, fathoms; while it presents a very singular instance of dimorphic specific characters. Some individuals have ten arms, each with a syzygy in the third brachial; but others have twenty, with two articulated distichals and the first two brachials united by syzygy. The "Blake" material contains numerous intermediate conditions between these two extremes, e.g., individuals with twelve or fifteen arms, owing to the distichal series only occurring on some of the rays. The Challenger specimen from St. Paul's Rocks has twenty arms, with its full complement of ten distichal series. In the figured "Porcupine" example, however, there are but nine distichal axillaries; so that the number of arms would only be nineteen, but for the presence of a single palmar axillary, which brings the total up to twenty (Pl. LII. fig. 1).

This species is often an extremely difficult one to make out, owing to the obscurity of the syzygial union between the first two brachials, as long as the arms remain whole; but when they drop away and the syzygial faces are exposed there can be no mistake about the characters of the type. In some cases they have broken at the syzygy in the third brachial; though this is not always a syzygial joint, except perhaps in the two outer arms of the ray.

The Challenger's discovery of this species at St. Paul's Rocks extended its geographical range very considerably, and has probably also brought its bathymetrical range up to less than 70 fathoms, the specimen having been obtained at some depth between 10 and 80 fathoms. In like manner the presence of this species among the "Porcupine" collection, from 374 and 477 fathoms near the entrance to the Straits of Gibraltar, brings it into the

<sup>1</sup> *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl.*, 1878, vol. v. No. 9, pp. 215, 216.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 1881, vol. ix. No. 4, p. 10.