

The pinnules on the second distichal and post-palmar joints are about equally long, reaching 12 mm.; but the following pinnules are considerably shorter, diminishing to that of the third brachial which is the smallest; after which the length increases slightly, but the pinnules are always comparatively short. The lower pinnules have a terminal comb as far the fourth or fifth brachial, and it is continued at intervals to the eleventh or twelfth.

Mouth radial; disk naked, except for a few granules near the anal tube.

Colour in spirit,—dark blackish-brown.

Disk 30 mm.; spread 18 cm.

Locality.—Banda; 17 fathoms.

Remarks.—This species is remarkable for the relatively small size of the arms and pinnules as compared with that of the disk. Its nearest allies are the *Antedon briareus* of Bell and the Philippine species to which I have referred in Part I. as *Actinometra magnifica*.¹ The latter has nearly twice the spread of *Actinometra divaricata*, with a relatively smaller disk; while the rays are in close lateral contact as far as the distichal axillary, above which the perisome is strongly plated.

Antedon briareus is really an *Actinometra*, as is shown by the absence of sacculi, and the presence of a terminal comb on the lower pinnules, two points which seem to have escaped Bell's notice. According to his description of the species,² the post-palmar series resemble the palmars in consisting of but two joints, the axillary without a syzygy. This would indicate an alliance with *Actinometra multifida*. Bell's figure shows, however, that about two-thirds of the post-palmars have three joints, the axillary with a syzygy, and also that there are four cases of a further division, which he does not mention at all. In one case these second post-palmars consist of two joints, the axillary without a syzygy; but the remainder consist of three joints, the axillary with a syzygy, just as in *Actinometra divaricata* and *Actinometra magnifica*. Pending the discovery of other examples of this species, therefore, its formula must be— $a.3.2.3.3.\frac{b}{a}$, and not— $A.2.3.(2).\frac{b}{a}$, as was assigned to it by Bell.³ Its centro-dorsal is evidently undergoing reduction to the *Phanogenia*-condition, but some poorly developed cirri still remain attached to it; while in *Actinometra alternans*, *Actinometra divaricata* (Pl. LXIII. fig. 6), and *Actinometra magnifica* it is stellate, with few or no traces of any cirri at all.

We now come to a group of species, which in one respect stand altogether alone in the whole family of Comatulæ. In each case there are three distichals, the axillary with a syzygy; but the two secondary arms borne on each distichal axillary are not alike when they divide again. That on the outside of the ray has but two palmar joints, the

¹ Zool. Chall. Exp., part xxxii. p. 57, pl. lvi. fig. 7.

² "Alert" Report, p. 163, pl. xiv.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 155.