DESCRIPTION OF GENERA AND SPECIES.

GYMNOBLASTEA.

Family BOUGAINVILLIDÆ.

Character of the Family. *Trophosome.*—Hydranths with conical hypostome, tentacles filiform in a single verticil.

Gonosome.—Gonophores, planoblasts or hedrioblasts.

Stylactis, Allman.

Stylactis, Allman, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., May 1864

Generic Character. *Trophosome.*—Hydrocaulus rudimental, being reduced to short tubular processes which spring at intervals from a creeping stolon-like hydrorhiza and support the hydranths on their summit; hydrorhiza destitute of external cœnosarcal investment. Hydranths clavate, with a single circlet of filiform tentacles which surround the base of a conical hypostome.

Gonosome.—Gonophores adelocodonic, borne by the hydranth at the proximal side of the tentacles, or by the creeping stolon.

The genus *Stylactis* was founded for two Hydroids originally described by Sars,[1] who referred them to the genus *Podocoryne*. If, however, we accept the validity of the principles which have more recently guided the limitation and systematic position of Hydroid groups, these two species of Sars have really no claim to admission into the genus *Podocoryne*. The gonophores are adelocodonic and sedentary, while those of *Podocoryne* are medusiform planoplasts; and while the creeping stolon of the two species described by Sars is destitute of a cœnosarcal covering, that of *Podocoryne* agrees with *Hydractinia* in being overlaid by a naked fleshy extension of the cœnosarc.

To the two species made known by Sars I was enabled to add another from the Mediterranean,[2] and a fourth species has now been contributed by the dredgings of the Challenger.

[1] Faun. lit. Norv., p. 7, 1846, and Middelhavets lit. Fauna, p. 40.

[2] Gymnoblastic Hydroids, p. 305, 1871.