

Stylactis vermicola,¹ n. sp. (Pl. I. figs. 2, 2a).

Trophosome.—Hydranths clavate, with a circlet of about eight tentacles, and with their rudimentary stems springing at short intervals from a creeping, loosely branched, stolon-like hydrorhiza which is destitute of spine-like appendages.

Gonosome.—Gonophores oviform, shortly pedunculate, springing from the hydranth close to its proximal end, or from the hydrorhiza.

Locality.—Station 244, North Pacific; lat. 35° 22' N., long. 169° 53' E.; depth, 2900 fathoms.

Stylactis vermicola derives special interest from its singular habitat as well as from the great depth at which it was found living. Professor M'Intosh, while engaged with his Report on the Annelids collected by the Challenger, found that a colony of Hydroids had attached itself to the back of a specimen of *Lætmonice producta*, an *Aphrodita*-like Annelid obtained by the trawl in the North Pacific, from a depth of 2900 fathoms. The Hydroid lay entirely under cover of the scales, which are disposed in two imbricated series over the back of this Annelid, and an examination of a specimen sent to me by Professor M'Intosh has shown it to be an undescribed species of *Stylactis*.

The hydrorhizal stolon crept over the back of the Annelid and was crowded with thick, club-shaped hydranths of various sizes and in various stages of contraction. From the creeping stolon numerous very short tubular offsets were emitted. These formed so many rudimental stems which were invested like the hydrorhiza with a perisarc, while each supported on its summit a claviform hydranth, with about eight filiform tentacles disposed in a single circlet round the base of a thick conical hypostome.

Some of the hydranths gave support to gonophores which were carried on very short peduncles close to the proximal end of the hydranth, while similar short-peduncled gonophores were also borne by the hydrorhiza close to the base of a hydranth. No difference either in form or size could be seen between those hydranths which carried gonophores and those which were without them.

Family EUDENDRIDÆ.

Character of the Family. Trophosome.—Hydranths with trumpet-shaped hypostome, tentacles filiform in a single verticil.

Gonosome.—Gonophores hedrioblastic.

¹ It is to this species that allusion has been made in the Narrative of the Cruise (vol. i. part ii. p. 753), where it is spoken of as referable to a new Calyptoblastic genus. More mature consideration has led me to believe that it has no characters which would justify its separation from *Stylactis*, the generic group in which it is here included.