

tentacles into the substance of the umbrella, and the close approximation of every otocyst with the base of a tentacle.

Among the Hydroids of the Challenger one species of *Obelia* (*Obelia geniculata*), a very common European form, has been identified.

*Obelia geniculata*, Linnæus, sp. (Pl. XII. figs. 1, 1a).

*Sertularia geniculata*, Linn., Syst. Nat., 1312.

*Laomedea geniculata*, Lamx., Cor. flex., 205.

*Eucope diaphana*, Agassiz, Nat. Hist. of U.S., vol. iv. p. 322, pl. xxxiv. figs. 1-9.

*Obelia geniculata*, Allman, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., May 1864.

„ „ Hincks, Brit. Hydroid Zooph., p. 149, pl. xxv.

*Trophosome*.—Hydrocaulus consisting of simple or sparingly branched stems, which arise from a network of creeping fibres, and attain a height of about an inch. Hydrothecæ obconical, with entire margin, alternate, supported each on a strongly annulated peduncle, which springs from a projecting hook-shaped process of the stem situated immediately below the salient angle of every geniculation, and supported by a bracket-like thickening of the chitinous perisarc.

*Gonosome*.—Gonangia borne on short annulated peduncles which spring from the angles between the hydrothecæ and the stem, urn-shaped, gradually widening from below upwards and terminating distally in a short conical neck, which carries the orifice on its summit.

*Locality*.—Kerguelen Island; depth, 20 to 26 fathoms.

Station 315, Port William, Falkland Islands; lat. 51° 40' S., long. 57° 50' W.; depth, 5 to 12 fathoms.

Among the whole of the Campanularian Hydroids there is perhaps not one in which the characters of the trophosome are so definite and so easily recognisable as in *Obelia geniculata*. The remarkable development of the chitinous perisarc which occurs on one side of every internode, and supports the alternately disposed hydrothecæ in the manner of a bracket, has not been found in any other species.

*Obelia geniculata* is one of the few British Hydroids obtained by the Challenger. In the British and European seas it is one of the commonest and most widely distributed species, while it has also been obtained on the eastern and western shores of the United States, and on the coast of Labrador (Hincks), as well as in the seas round the North Cape.

The Challenger dredged it from two localities, one in the region of Kerguelen Island, and the other in that of the Falkland Islands. Both therefore in nearly the same southern latitudes, though separated by about 130° of longitude. The distance between these extreme southern localities and the Arctic Ocean in which it has been found by Sars, affords one of the most striking examples known of the wide geographical distribution of a single species.