

Hormathia delicatula,* sp. n. (Pl. II. figs. 1, 3, IV. fig. 9).

More than 160 tentacles; parietal spherules tentacle-like, one of the latter to about every four tentacles.

Habitat.—(?) (Inscription on the label completely soaked away.) Two specimens.

Dimensions.—Diameter of the nearly spherical body, 2·5–3·0 cm.

Gosse has conferred the name of *Hormathia margarithæ* on an Actinian brought up by the line of a deep-sea fishing-boat. Having obtained but one specimen, and that not till some time after death, he could give but an incomplete description; the most important point of which is that on the delicate body-wall, at some distance from its upper edge, are placed prominences resembling marginal spherules, the number of which is about ten, and is essentially less than that of the tentacles. In his monograph treating of the Actiniæ, Angelo Andres has included the animal among the doubtful genera, as being of uncertain systematic position. It was therefore very agreeable to me to find in the Challenger material two Actiniæ obviously belonging to the genus *Hormathia*, by the study of which I am enabled both to justify the creation of a new genus, and also to define accurately its systematic position.

Both specimens were so strongly contracted as to resemble an apple in shape. The upper part of the body-wall, the pedal disc and the mouth being entirely drawn in, and the latter covered over, one saw at first only the lower part of the body-wall, the smooth surface of which was so little characteristic that I came near to ranking the animal among the undeterminable forms. Only after dividing a specimen longitudinally did the circlet of parietal spherules come into view, their position being characteristic of the genus *Hormathia*.

The pedal disc is strongly constricted and pleated by the violent contraction. The body-wall is exceptionally delicate, so that the septa are plainly visible through it, and is quite smooth. By a circular fold, which recalls to mind the boundary between body-wall and oral disc, and marks the limit of retraction in a withdrawn specimen, is bounded a separate invaginable region of the body-wall; close up to this fold, and on the side nearest to the oral disc, is placed a circlet of 42 knobs, which are hollow and beset with nematocysts, and which therefore recall the structure of the marginal vesicles or "bourses marginales" (Pl. IV. fig. 9). They are of different sizes, the largest generally longer than the marginal spherules; and are curved in a digitate manner at the end, so as to present some resemblance to tentacles. The number of tentacles and mesenteries being about 160, the parietal spherules, as I term these structures, are not placed, like the marginal spherules, one on each inter- and intra-mesenterial chamber; but there is one spherule to about every four chambers, with one of which it is always in communication, leaving the remaining two or three free.

The marked retractibility of the animal is effected by a sphincter muscle in a definite region of the body-wall, which, commencing at some little distance from the