

Genus *Scirpearella*, n. gen.

Cuvier¹ in his classification of "Les Polypiers nageurs," of which the axis is stony, but free, describes "Les Scirpéaires" "ont les corps très long et très grêle, et les polypes isolés, rangés alternativement le long des deux côtés," giving as the type *Pennatula mirabilis*, L.

Kölliker² gives *Scirpearia*, Cuv., as a synonym of *Funiculina*, Lam., and adds the following under the name of *Scirpearia mirabilis*,—"Cuvier designates an Alcyonarian named and figured by Linneus as *Pennatula mirabilis*; Ellis copies this figure and so also does Pallas. Lamarck refers this species to his genus *Funiculina*. Ehrenberg quotes it as *Scir. mirabilis*, Cuv. and gives as synonym—*Pennatula mirabilis*, L., *Funiculina cylindrica*, Lamk., and *Alcyonaria scirpea*, Blain., and he mentions that a specimen in the Berlin Museum quite answers to the description of this species."

De Blainville³ places *Funiculina*, Lam., as a genus next to *Plexaura*, the type species being *Funiculina cylindrica*, Lam., of which he quotes *Pennatula mirabilis*, Pall., as a synonym, adding "et ce qui est assez singulier, c'est que M. Cuvier a en outre proposé un nouveau genre avec la *P. mirabilis*, de Linn., sous le nom de *Scirpearia*, sans penser qu'il étoit établi avec le même animal, type du genre *Funiculina* de M. de Lamarck."

The *Funiculina cylindrica*, Lam., in the Paris Museum is a Gorgonid, and this very specimen Kölliker thinks (and we agree) is the one figured by de Blainville (it is possibly a *Juncella*). Dr. Gray (1870) accepts the genus *Scirpearia*, Cuv., placing it in his family Calligorgidæ, the next genus to his *Callicella* (see *ante*, p. 75, *Calligorgia*), and in addition to the species *Scirpearia mirabilis*, includes *Juncella funiculina*, D. and M., *Juncella barbadensis*, D. and M., and *Gorgonia gonolithiformis*, Lam. Dr. Gray's generic diagnosis is unintelligible, *Scirpearia funiculina*, D. and M., is said to have the coral free though it is figured as attached, and the generic characters of Cuvier cannot be said to be in any way emended. Dr. Gray had some years previously (1859) placed *Scirpearia* in his family Ellisellatæ, but without any sufficient diagnosis.

Dr. Studer,⁴ however, emended the diagnosis of *Scirpearia*, placing it near *Ellisella*, but with prominent polyps, these arranged in two rows; spines, double clubs and spindles, and including in it *Nicella*, Gray, *Ruyurella*, Gray, and *Vianella*, Gray, *ex parte*. Even accepting the genus in the sense of Studer, it seems impossible to include in it, even with considerable further emendations, some remarkable forms with simple or very feebly branched stems found during the expedition of the Challenger, and for them we are compelled to make a new genus which may be diagnosed as follows:—

Colony simple or very feebly branched. Axis calcareous, brittle, smooth or symmetri-

¹ Cuvier, Le Règne Animal, Nouv. Édit., t. iii. p. 319, 1830.

² Kölliker, Anat. Syst. Besch. der Alcyonarien, Die Pennatuliden, p. 261, 1872.

³ De Blainville, Manuel d'Actinologie, p. 508, 1834.

⁴ Studer, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1878, p. 660.