

The specimens which I have referred to this species present some very interesting variations, but there are no differences constant enough in them to warrant specific separation. At least two of them in the absence of the others would seem to be distinct, but with the others at hand it is impossible so to designate them, for the series presents almost every intermediate condition, while the characters are extremely variable—the least variable being that the border of the septa is approximately vertical and the upper portion more or less truncate.

Thus the corallum may be very convex and raised, or slightly convex and broad, with a diameter of about 12 cm.; the epitheca very rudimentary or more developed; the costæ very finely spinulose or unequally toothed; the wall very thin, or thick enough to show a small furrow above; the calicles separate, or in series straight or sinuous, scarcely or nearly separated, deep or comparatively shallow, wide or narrow; the septa thin or thickened, with long or short teeth, very close or rather far apart according to the greater or less development of the last cycle; and the columella slightly or much developed; while at the same time these differences are most irregularly marked on different specimens.

Three forms may be selected as showing the extremes of variation:—

- a. One with a very regularly raised, convex corallum; thin walls; rather large and deep calicles in sinuous series of from two to six centres; thin, vertical and truncate septa; very sharp, long and rough teeth giving a jagged appearance to the calicle; columella well developed.
- b. Another with a very raised, convex, somewhat oblong corallum; thick walls; large, deep calicles in nearly straight series with scarcely distinct centres; thick, scarcely vertical and truncate septa; sharp and rough teeth; columella well developed.
- c. A third with a very broadly convex corallum; thin walls; small, shallow calicles, separate or tending to be so; thin, rather narrow septa, somewhat vertical and truncate; short, sharp and rather small teeth, and a slightly developed columella.

The *Symphyllia anemone*, Duchassaing and Michelotti, must, I think, be placed as a synonym of this species, and perhaps also the *Symphyllia aglæ*. The *Isophyllia rigida*, Verrill, as re-described by Pourtalès under *Isophyllia guadulpensis* seems also to be indistinguishable from the broad variety of the species. The *Madrepora lactuca*, Esper,¹ seems to be the above species, but I have taken the name of the later authors to avoid ambiguity and doubtful identification.

Locality.—Bermuda.

¹ Pflanz. Forts., i. Tab. xxxiii.