

are more numerous in some specimens than in others. No regular reticulum is formed, and the distal portion of each paniculate branch at the apex of the corallum is free from its neighbour. This is the most delicate species which has come under my notice, and differs from the similarly delicate *Antipathella*? *tristis* (Duch.) both in the shape and arrangement of the spines. The whole corallum is usually flat, but in one specimen a laxly-branched portion extends in a plane behind the main-mass, and almost parallel with it. In some of the specimens, although dry, the polyps are shown as very small bead-like elevations on the branchlets; there are usually 9 or 10 to a centimetre. The spines are short and conical with a slender apex (Pl. XII. fig. 5). They are arranged in steep sinistrorse spirals, which are rather far apart. Five longitudinal rows may be counted from one aspect of a branchlet, the members of a row being from four to five lengths apart.

*Habitat.*—West Indies (Scrivener), Brit. Mus.

*Antipathella*? *gracilis* (Gray) (Pl. XI. fig. 8).

*Antipathes gracilis*, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 3, vol. vi., 1860, p. 311; (non *Antipathes* (*Cirrhopathes*) *gracilis*, Gray).

Gray's description is as follows:—

“Coral rather fan-like, expanded, very slender, repeatedly forked. Branches very slender, elongate, subsimple, tapering; stem and branches covered with very close rather elongate spinules. Hab. Madeira.

“The coral is six inches high, rather fan-like, in a single plane; stem slender, about as thick as a thick bristle, subalternately branched, with the rows of branches on the outer side, giving them the appearance of being forked; the branches and branchlets elongate, very slender and subsimple and gradually tapering till they are quite hair-like.”

I am at a loss to understand Gray's description, as the only specimen in the British Museum Collection which I could find, bearing the name *Antipathes gracilis* in his own handwriting is 56 cm. high, and labelled from the West Indies. This specimen is evidently related to other flabellate forms now included in the genus *Antipathella*. The base consists of several stems fused together, which give rise to a series of branches not all in the same plane, but presenting frequent fusions between neighbouring branches. The upper portion is more spreading, but the larger branches are still strong and frequently fuse with one another. In some portions nearly all the branches come off from one side and are placed at irregular intervals. Nearly all the secondary branches are very slender. Medium branches bear branchlets irregularly, varying in length from 1.5 to 10 cm., usually longer on one side than the other. The smaller branchlets are simple and filiform; the larger ones are again branched irregularly, the ultimate pinnules being very slender, and rarely attaining a length of 1.2 cm. without becoming branched. The spines are similar in size and shape to those of *Antipathella atlantica* (Gray), but are