

*Tylopathes? flabellum* (Pallas), non Esp. (Pl. XI. fig. 18).

*Antipathes flabellum*, Pallas, Elench. Zooph., p. 211; Lamarck, Hist. nat. anim. sans vert., t. ii. p. 309; Lamouroux, Polyp. flex., p. 382; Dana, Zooph., p. 579.

*Rhipidipathes flabellum*, Milne-Edwards, Coralliaires, t. i. p. 321.

“*A. explanata ramosissima subdivisa, ramulis bifariam ramosis, reticulatim cohærentibus. Lignum stirpis fragilissimum, atrum, tenerrima scabritie hispidum. Calyces a latero convexo flabelli, per ramos sparsi, crebri, grano papaveris vix majores, breviculi, subturbinati, extus scabri*” (Pallas, *op. cit.*).

In its flattened and trellis-like surface this species has much the habit of *Rhipidogorgia flabellum*, indeed the form described and figured by Esper may have belonged to this or some allied species, as the axis was smooth and devoid of spines.

A specimen in the British Museum from Madagascar, which appears to be referable to this species, has a form that is perhaps due to some injury received during growth. The corallum is flattened, but in the middle it becomes folded, so that a flattened plate-like portion grows out at right angles to the general plane of growth and parallel with the axis of the stem. The lower branches come off irregularly, and are fused together by bridges of sclerenchyma which cross obliquely from one to another. In this portion of the colony the sclerenchyma is black and polished, but bears a number of small slender spines only seen by the aid of a lens. In the upper part of the corallum the long slender branches run almost vertically and are closely set (4 to 10 mm. apart). These are reddish brown in colour and more densely spinose. They bear pinnules given off subalternately from the antero-lateral margins, which are bent upwards and usually fuse with those from an adjoining branch. The pinnules are 3 to 6 mm. long and generally simple, though some of the larger ones bear secondary pinnules springing from the antero-lateral margin and usually free. With these exceptions the whole of the subdivisions from base to apex are fused into a close reticulum, consisting of long slender subvertical branches and close-set antero-lateral pinnules, so that the surface of the corallum following the pinnules has a zigzag outline. The spines are moderately long, and arranged in subregular dextrorse spirals and also in longitudinal rows. Five rows may be counted from one aspect of a slender branchlet, the members of a row being from one and a half to two lengths apart. The spines are about twice as long as broad at the base, and slowly taper to a moderately sharp point. Most of the spines form a right angle with the axis, but those in certain rows are hooked upwards (Pl. XI. fig. 18).

*Habitat.*—Indian Ocean (Pallas); off Madagascar (Brit. Mus.).