

*Bathypathes lyra*, n. sp. (Pl. VI. figs. 4-6).

A small lyrate species having usually alternate lateral branches, the lower ones being very long and curved upwards towards the apex, and in addition having a row of short spinous branches on the anterior surface standing out at right angles to the stem and lateral branches.

Stem slender, straight, tapering, of a rich red-brown colour near the base, gradually becoming fulvous towards the apex. In one specimen the stem is 11.5 cm. long, and has a dilation at the base by which it is attached to a small stone. The main branches are lateral and alternate, excepting near the base, where two are opposite. They are simple, elongate, and filiform, placed at first almost at right angles to the stem, but above, the angle becomes gradually reduced. The lowest branches, a pair, are given off about 1.3 cm. from the base; the others arise alternately on the right and left sides, and are nearly in the same plane. Most of the main branches are ultimately incurved and reach a point on a level with the tip of the stem. The lower ones are 11.5 cm. in length, the others becoming shorter towards the apex, the youngest being only 2.4 cm. long. In this specimen there are eighteen lateral branches in all, sixteen of which are alternate and the two basal ones opposite. In addition to the lateral branches there is a series of short, simple, setose branchlets on the anterior surface of the stem, passing out horizontally in a plane perpendicular to that occupied by the stem and lateral branches. These are confined to that portion of the stem bearing lateral branches. In the lower portion they are about 6 mm. apart, becoming more closely crowded towards the middle of the stem. Their average length is 6 mm.

The zooids are regular in size and almost equidistant from base to apex of each branch, being usually about 3 mm. apart. They are similar to those of *Bathypathes patula*, but are smaller, and in spirit specimens have more flattened leaf-like tentacles.

Another and smaller specimen from a different locality agrees well with that already described, even having the first two lateral branches opposite instead of alternate, a feature which otherwise might have been considered accidental. In this specimen, which is 6.5 cm. long, the soft parts are not preserved, and the dilated base of attachment is broken away. The anterior short spinous branchlets have the same character and distribution.

The spines are very short and conical, with an elongate base, and show no regular arrangement. Compared with those of *Bathypathes alternata* the spines are smaller, more numerous, and are disposed with greater irregularity. Four or five longitudinal rows are visible from one aspect, the members of a row being from one to five lengths apart. In places where the spines are less crowded an irregular spiral arrangement may be made out.