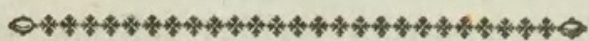


ALCYONIUM? BOTRYOIDES.



CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

ALCYONIUM? (Spongia?) flavo-purpurascens,
caule crasso stuposo, superne ramoso, ramulis
densissime congestis.

SPONGIA floribunda? Sp. amorphæ, fasciculis
ramosis confluentibus paleaceo-tomentosis,
apice crassioribus obtusis.

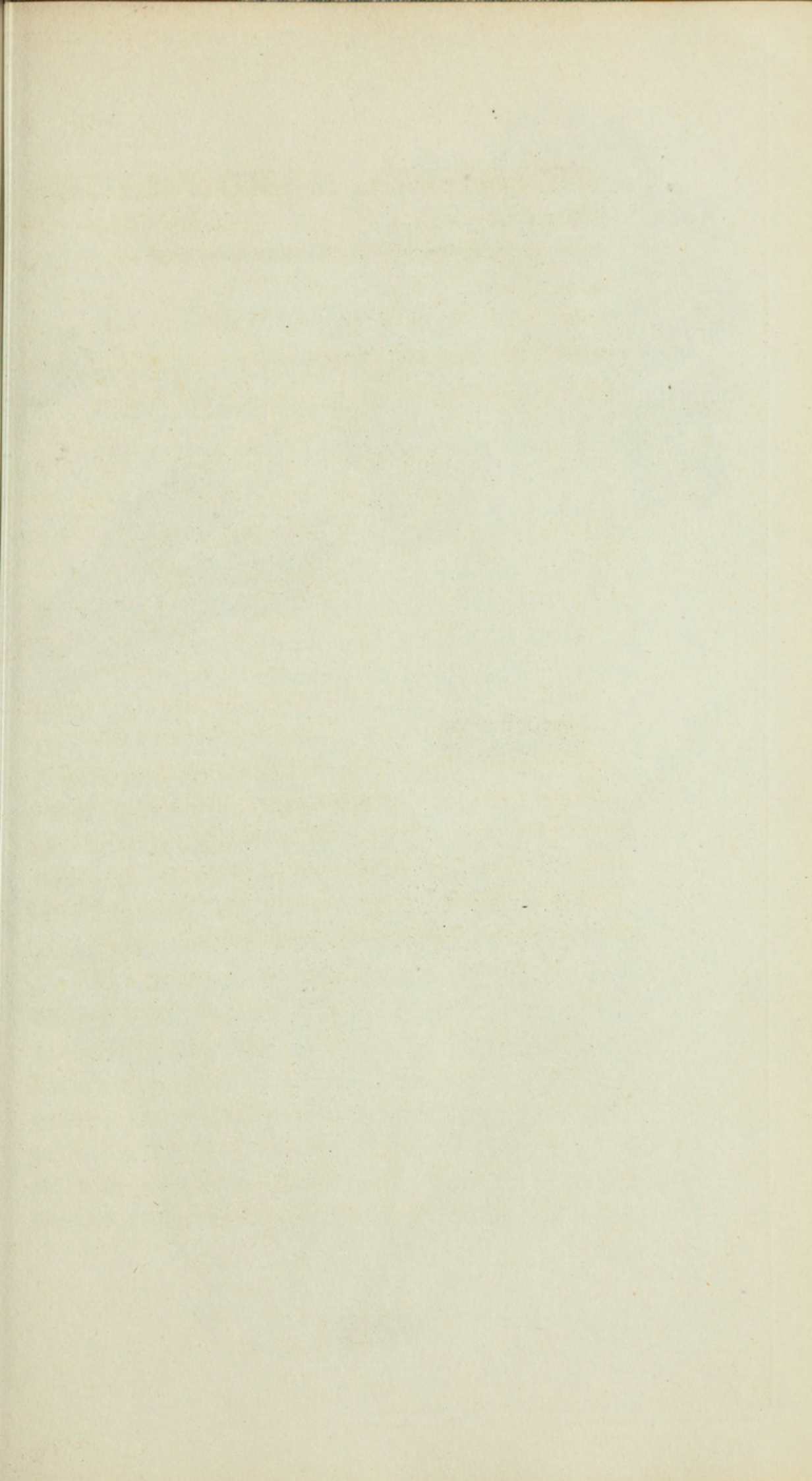
Pall. el. zooph. p. 378. & p. 434 addend.

Pulchri et mirabilis Alcyonii quod neminem opinamur descripsisse, veram magnitudinem depinximus. Litora incolit Australasiæ, insulæ præcipue quæ *Norfolcia* dicitur, et profunde sub aquismersum adhæret rupibus. Caulis ramique majores flavo-pallent, ramulis minoribus vivide rubentibus seu purpureis. Totum Alcyonium molliculum, sed tenax; tactu durum, si exaruerit; et videtur componi omnino e fibris parvulis, vermiculatis, quarum extremitates acuminatæ. Racemi qui terminales vocantur constant e tubulis divisis et sub-divisis, singulis quasi in calycem leviter expansum desinentibus; bracteamque, seu foliolum florale (ut physice loquar) non male simulantibus, qui forsan munimento sint illi

Illi zoophyti parti quæ animalis esse videtur; organo nempe flori-formi, flavo-pallenti, ex iisdem fibris vermiculatis confecto quibus reliquæ partes, sed minoribus et confertioribus. Constat hæc quasi corolla seu pars hydræformis e quinque vel sex segmentis oblique acuminatis et convergentibus, foramen tubulatum habentibus, per quod ipsi Alcyonio nutrimentum possit administrari. Licet tamen conjicere, nec inepte, polypos seu hydras (si quæ revera sint) intra tubulos quos supra memoravimus, sese subduxisse, calycibus tantum sive foraminibus externis in conspectu relictis. A transverso caulis segmento manifestum erit Alcyonium esse veluti cancellatum et leviter compactum, cavitatibus omnibus in longitudinem ab imo ad summum continuatis.

Elegans Alcyonii botryoidis specimen Societati Linnæanæ Londinensi donavit Dominus Paterfon, coloniae Britannicæ apud Australasiam Subpræfectus.

Figura inferior monstrat specimen in spiritu vini diu asservatum: tertia partem racemi externi magnitudine aucti ut corolliformes terminationes manifestius pateant: quarta unam e fibris vermiculatis e quibus totum componitur, magnitudine auctam.





3



4



CAULIFLOWER ALCYONIUM.



SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Yellow-purple ALCYONIUM? (Sponge?) with thick, stupose stem, ramifying on the upper part; with very thickly-crowded branchets.

This elegant and singular Alcyonium seems a species hitherto undescribed, and is a native of the coasts of New Holland, and more particularly of Norfolk Island; adhering to rocks at a considerable depth. The plate represents it in its natural size. The color of the stem and principal branches is pale yellow: of the smaller ramifications bright crimson or purple. The substance of the whole is softish, but tough; harsh to the touch in its dried state; and seemingly composed entirely of small, thickish, vermicular fibres with attenuated or sharpened extremities. The terminal clusters consist of divided and subdivided tubular processes, each ending in a calycular, slightly-expanded part, not ill resembling a bractea, and forming a kind of guard for what appears to be the animal part of the zoophyte; viz. a kind of flower-shaped organ of a pale-yellow color, and composed of the same kind of thickish vermicular fibres with the rest, but on a smaller scale, and somewhat more closely disposed.

This

This flower, or polype-like part consists of five or six obtusely-acuminated, converging segments, leaving a tubular opening, through which the proper nutriment may be conveyed to the whole. It is however no improbable supposition that the real polypes, (if such exist) may have withdrawn themselves into the lower parts of their respective tubular branches, leaving only the external calyces in view. A transverse section of this Alcyonium shews it to be of a cancellated or loosely-compacted fabric, the hollows all running in a longitudinal direction from the bottom upwards.

An elegant specimen of this Alcyonium was sometime since presented to the Linnæan Society by Colonel Paterfon, Vice-Governor of the English settlement in New Holland.

The lower figure represents a specimen preserved for a considerable time in spirit of wine.

Fig. 3. A magnified view of one of the exterior ramifications, in order to shew the flower-like terminations.

Fig. 4. Magnified view of one of the vermicular fibres of which the whole is composed.



Shaw, George. 1799. "Cauliflower Alcyonium, Alcyonium botryoides [Pl. 376]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 10(CXV), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.304558>.

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