

ACTINIA ANEMONE.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus se affigens basi, oblongum, teres: apice dilatabili intus tentaculato.

Os terminale dentibus incurvis; rostro cylindrico radiato.

(*Apertura* præter os nulla.)

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1088.

ANIMAL se affigens basi, carnosum, oblongum, teres, contractile, viviparum.

Os terminale, dilatabile, tentaculis cinctum.

(*Apertura* præter os nulla.)

Ellif. Hist. Zooph. p. 1.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

ACTINIA subcylindrica, breviuscula, rubra, tentaculis interioribus ramosis, exterioribus conicis, obtusis.

AN ACTINIA EQUINA?

Lin. Syst. Nat.

Si Zoologiæ classes inferiores attentius scrutemur, multa inveniemus formæ adeo insolitæ et naturæ velut ambiguae, ut dubium videatur finitne inter plantas, an inter animantes memoranda. Plurima hujusmodi
a cele-

a celeberrimo Linnæo sub nomine *Molluscorum* digeruntur; ita scilicet ordinem constituentia classis Vermium. Inter varia Molluscorum genera nullum genus *Aëliniæ* aut pulchritudine aut miro artificio præcellit.

Multæ hujus generis species nomine Anemones marinæ descriptæ sunt, utpote formam floris Anemones, cum expanduntur, præ se ferentes.

Species autem hic depicta, peculiari modo hac appellatione digna videtur: illam igitur nomine *Aëliniæ Anemones* distinguere non dubitavi. Quamvis perquam vulgaris sit hæc species in variis Europæ littoribus, et nullis frequentior quam nostratibus, a Linnæo tamen in Systemate Naturæ minus videtur descripta. Rupibus arcte adhæret, et mari refluxente, interdum nuda super rupes, plerumque tamen paulum sub aqua relinquitur. Color illi generalis est ruberrimus, plus minus vividus in diversis speciminibus. Magnitudinem repræsentant tabulæ. Dum contrahitur (*Fig. 1.*) cono obtusissimo similis est, apice aperto, quem pro arbitrio penitus claudere potest: plerumque tamen adeo resecratus est apex, ut ramosa aliquot tentacula centralia emergant. (*Fig. 2.*) Animal autem expansum spectaculum exhibet pulcherrimum omnino et mirandum. Duplicem enim, et interdum triplicem in circumferentia ordinem tentaculorum protrudit, forma oblonga, apicibus obtusis, quibus color flavus est, rubro eleganter variatus: hoc modo florem a quo nomen habet, optime exprimens. (*Fig. 3.*) Tentacula centralia nunc non exferuntur, sed ampla in medio relicta est cavitas, in quam si aliquid extraneum introducitur, aut si aliqua tentacula vel leviter tanguntur, illico se fortiter contrahit

contrahit animal, et in formam coni, (ut in *Fig. 1.*)
rurfus subducitur. Hanc Actiniæ speciem interdum
a rupe sua detraxi, vidique illam mirabundus paulo
post, cum languescere cepit, omnia pene viscera pro-
trudentem in formam membranæ inflatæ et late expan-
sæ, coloris flavescentis, radiis subrubris et viride pal-
lentibus variati. (*Fig. 4.*) Cum hoc fit, tentacula cen-
tralia non exserta sunt, series autem duplex vel triplex
tentaculorum in circumferentia pulchre expanditur.
Viviparæ sunt Actiniæ, sed ab experimentis in nonnul-
lis speciebus hujus generis demonstratur posse animal
(adhibita cautela) in partes abscindi, et hoc modo pro-
pagari, singulis partibus gradatim ad perfectionem re-
pullulantibus.



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THE
ANEMONE ACTINIA.

O R
SEA ANEMONE.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body oblong, nearly cylindric, fixing itself by the base, the top expanse and tentaculated within.

Mouth terminal, furnished with crooked *teeth*.

No other *Opening* except that of the mouth.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

ACTINIA, of a nearly cylindric shape, shortish, with the interior tentacula ramified, the exterior ones conic and obtuse, Colour red.

When we take a view of the lower orders of Zoology, we find a large and singular set of beings, which are so widely distinct from the other tribes of the animal world, that they seem almost as nearly allied to vegetables as to animals. Many of these curious productions of Nature are arranged by Linnæus under the title of Mollusca; which title is one of the subdivisions of the Linnæan tribe of Vermes. Of the various
genera

genera belonging to the Mollusca, that of *Actinia* is perhaps the most elegant and curious. Many species of this genus have been called by the name of Sea-Anemonies, from a general resemblance which they bear, during their expanded state, to that flower. The species here represented, seems in a peculiar manner worthy of this name. I have therefore given it the title of the Anemone *Actinia*.

Though extremely common on several of the European coasts, and on our own in particular, it does not seem distinctly mentioned by Linnæus in the *Systema Naturæ*. It adheres firmly to the rocks, so as to be frequently left above water at the ebbing of the sea; but it is generally found adhering at some little depth below the surface of the water. Its general colour is a deep red, more or less vivid in different specimens, and of the size represented in the annexed plates.

When in a state of contraction, (as at *Fig. 1.*) it has the appearance of a very obtuse cone, with an orifice at the top, which it can at pleasure close entirely; but which is generally so far open, as just to exhibit a few of the interior branchy tentacula or central parts. (*Fig. 2.*) but when expanded, it presents a most curious and beautiful appearance, (*Fig. 3.*) it then displays a triple row of circular tentacula of an oblong form, with obtuse points, of a yellow colour, and varied with red in such a manner as to bear a very considerable resemblance to the flower from which it is named. In this state the central tentacula are not protruded, but a large cavity appears in the middle, into which, if any extraneous substance is introduced, or even if any of
the

the tentacula are but slightly touched, the animal instantly contracts itself into a conoid shape again, (as at *Fig. 1.*)

I have sometimes taken this species of *Actinia* from its native rock, and have observed that after some time, when it grew languid, it protruded in a most extraordinary manner almost the whole of its interior parts or viscera, in the form of an inflated membrane of a pale yellow colour, and striped very elegantly with rays of red and pale sea-green. (*Fig. 4.*) In this state it does not protrude any of the central or branchy tentacula, but the rows of lateral ones are protruded all round the circumference. The *Actiniæ* are viviparous animals, and experiments have been made on some of the species of this genus, which prove, that they are capable of being cut (with proper care) into several parts, each of which by degrees becomes complete.



Shaw, George. 1789. "The Anemone Actinia or Sea Anemone, Actinia anemone [Pl. 26-27]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 1(V), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310679>.

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