

HOLOTHURIA TREMULA.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus liberum, nudum, gibbum, ano terminali.

Tentacula plura in altera extremitate.

Os inter tentacula.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1089.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

HOLOTHURIA tentaculis fasciculatis, corpore
papillis hinc subconicis, illinc cylindricis.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1090.

FISTULARIA.

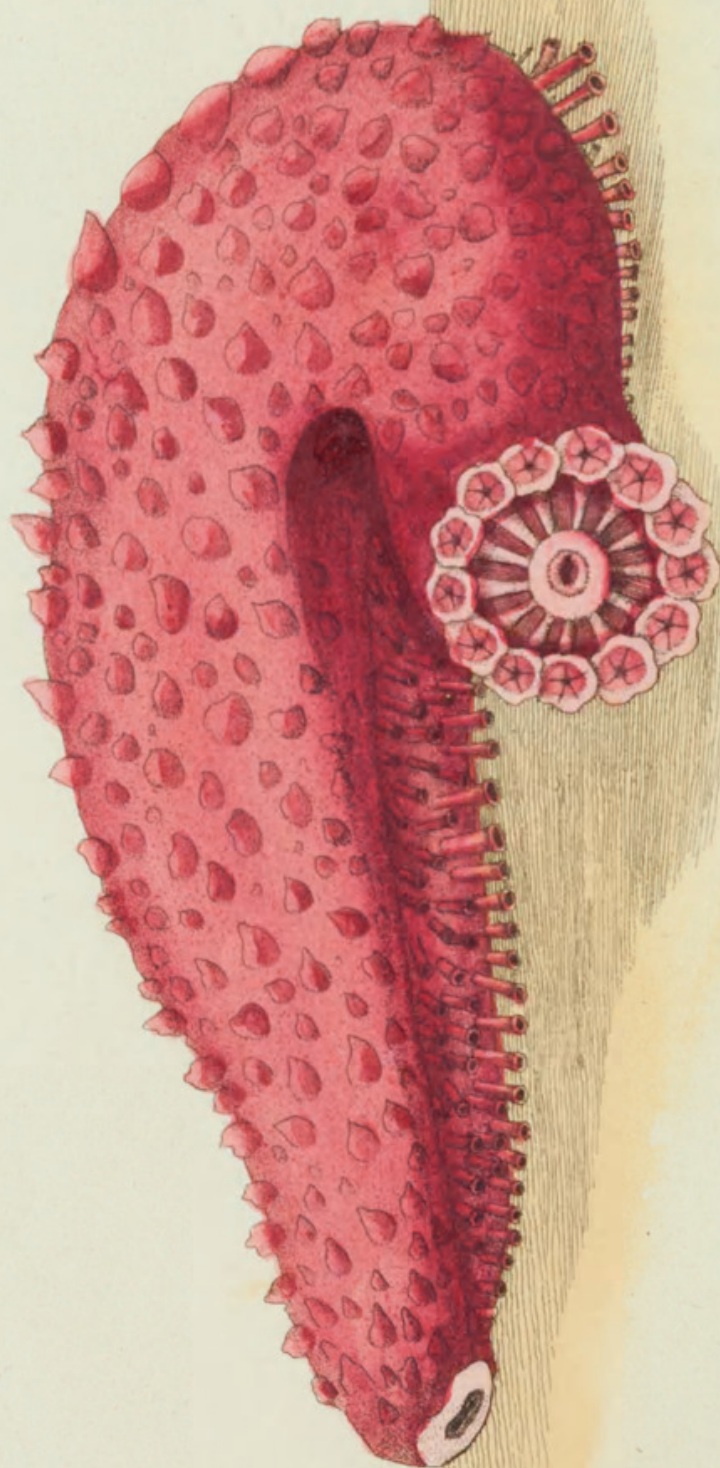
Forsk. Fn. aegypt. ar. t. 39. f. A.

HYDRA.

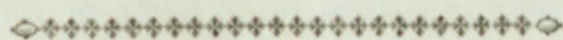
Bobadfsch. anim. mar. p. 75. t. 6.

Facie varia adeo et mutabili sunt multa animalia quæ in ordine molluscorum continentur, ut eorum veram figuram difficillimum fit verbis apte describere, cum istius animalculi more quod distinxit Linnæus nomine *Chaos Proteus*, varias horæ momento formas possint induere, et citissima metamorphosi spectantis oculos decipere. Pollet hac facultate

tate totum genus *Holothuria*, præcipue autem species de qua jam agitur, quæ quiescens et intacta oblonga est et fere cylindracea; simul atque vero locum mutare inceperit, protruduntur statim e pluribus corporis partibus tentacula fere innumera, adeo ut totum animal quasi spinis mollibus obfitum videatur. Contrahitur quoque ad libitum in formam globosam seu leviter ovatam. Constat color, ut plurimum, ex albedine et rubore pulchre commistis, variantibus autem pro ætate, anni tempore, aliisque de causis. In litoribus maris septentrionalis non raro reperitur *Holothuria tremula*. Possunt omnes *Holothuriæ*, si irritentur, aquam ex ore ejaculari ut solent *Ascidiæ*, velut e siphone profilientem.



TREMULOUS HOLOTHURIA.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body unfixed, naked, gibbous, with an open extremity.

Tentacula numerous, furrounding one extremity.

Mouth situated amidst the tentacula.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

HOLOTHURIA with numerous conical papillæ on its upper surface, cylindric ones on its lower, and numerous fascicular tentacula furrounding the mouth.

So strange and variable are the shapes of several marine animals belonging to the tribe Mollusca, that it is difficult to give a clear idea of their form by any description; since like the animalcule known by the name of Proteus, (Chaos Proteus. Lin.) they are capable of totally altering their appearance, and assuming an aspect widely different from that in which they appeared a few minutes before. This is no where more remarkable than in the genus Holothuria, and the species here figured may stand as a curious example of this mutable power. When perfectly

perfectly at rest, and undisturbed, it appears of an oblong shape; but when it prepares to alter its situation, it protrudes from most parts of its body an infinite number of tentacula or feelers, in such a manner as to appear beset with soft spines. It also is capable of contracting itself at pleasure into a globular shape, or slightly oval. Its colour is commonly a beautiful mixture of red and white, but in this respect it varies considerably, according to the circumstances of vigor, the season of the year, &c. &c. It is not unfrequently found on the coasts of the northern seas.



Shaw, George. 1794. "Tremulous Holothuria, Holothuria tremula [Pl. 172]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 5(LVII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310751>.

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