

On *Phellia murocineta* (Gosse).

By

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P. H. GOSSE described this beautiful little species in his *British Sea Anemones and Corals*, in 1860, from two specimens obtained from a pool at Petit Tor, near Torquay.

I recently collected two specimens at Zennor, some five miles along the coast south of St. Ives, Cornwall.

An examination of these proved that Gosse's examples were young and immature, as shown by the difference of size and number of tentacles.

Their habitat was very similar to that of the Torquay specimens, namely, attached to the under side of granite stones, at the bottom of a shallow pool in a small dark cave, just at the top of the Laminarian zone. There occurred also on the same stones young specimens of *Actinia equina* (Linn.), *Cereus pedunculatus* (S. Bellis), and a number of *Depastrum cyathiforme*.

Size.—Expanded, half an inch in diameter. The measurements of Gosse's examples were, "Diameter of column $\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch, expanded $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch."

Outline of base irregular. The "epidermis" not dense (as in Gosse's description), free and easily removed, the animals expanding as freely after the removal as before. The column was usually much flattened during the day, but frequently elongated and pillar-like at night.

No acontia were emitted even after severe irritation.

Tentacles 36 in number. Gosse's specimens had 24. Otherwise the tentacles in my specimens agreed with his account. As he says, "they were generally carried hanging over the margin with a double curve, like the branches of a chandelier, but sometimes the inner row stand erect."

They exhibited much greater activity at night than during the day-time.

Colour.—Although differing slightly from one another, both my specimens agreed with Gosse's, except that the column had no "mealy

appearance and fewer white longitudinal lines," nor were there "broad white gonidial radii" on the disk, though the white patches at the bases of the tentacles were in one specimen much more prominent in the case of the "gonidial tentacles" and those adjacent, than the rest.

The white star-shaped area in the centre of the disk was very well marked in one specimen, less so in the other, and the three white bars on the tentacles varied considerably in intensity.

One of the anemones twice moved from the upper to the under side of the stone to which it was attached, when this had been turned up for inspection.

The colouring of these anemones harmonised so exactly with their surroundings (granite stones covered with live and dead colonies of *Polyzoa* and *Serpulæ* brown and white—the rock also being stained dark brown in patches)—as to be very hard to make out even when in the aquarium and close under the eye—especially when fully expanded.