Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 1

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah07

XXXI.—Miscellanea Zoologica

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Published online: 15 Mar 2010.

XXXI.—*Miscellanea Zoologica.* By George Johnston, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Description of a New Genus of British Zoophyte.

The kind liberality of my friends, interested in similar pursuits, has lately furnished me with several undescribed species of British zoophytes; and there is amongst them one, in some respects, so remarkable and eccentric, that it seems no more than just to its discoverer that an early description of it should be placed on record. It was sent to me by Mr. Wm. Bean of Scarborough, who was fully aware of the novelty and singularity of its characters, which raise it indisputably to a generic rank in its family. Not for this reason however, but because of the very great number and value of the discoveries of that well-known naturalist, I propose to associate this zoophyte with his name and memory; and in doing so I know that I shall confer a gratification on many of his fellow-labourers; and I keep very clearly within the precincts of the rule, which forbids us to confer on a genus the name of an individual unless his services shall have honestly won him that compliment.

Class ZOOPHYTA.

Order Ascidioida. Family Vesiculariadæ.

Genus Beania.

(Det nomen Dom. Gulielmus Bean, zoophytorum investigator peritissimus.)

Char. Polyparium phytoïdeum, filiforme, repens, corneum; surculis tubulosis, diffuse ramosis, vesiculiferis. Vesiculæ singulatim sparsæ, erectæ, magnæ, ovatæ, uno latere spinosæ.—Polypi ignoti.

—— Polypidom confervoid, horny, the shoots creeping, filiform, tubular, irregularly divided; the cells very large, sessile, erect, scattered and solitary, ovate with a double spinous keel on one side. Polypes unknown.

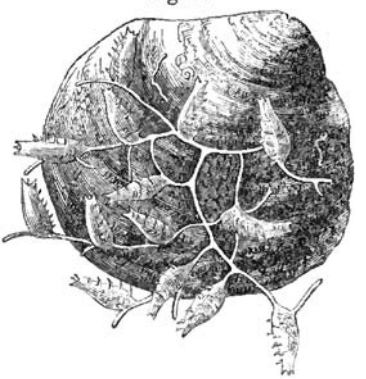
Species B. mirabilis.

Habitat in mare Britannico. Scarborough, very rare, *Wm. Bean, Esq.*

The only specimen which I have seen of this very remark-

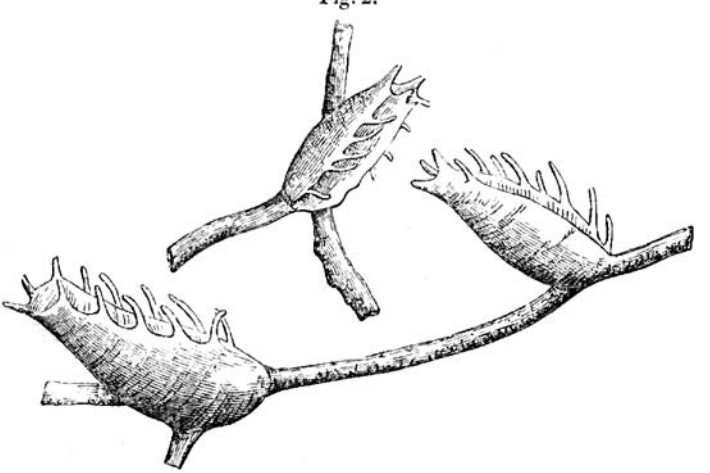
able coralline is parasitical on the upper valve of an *Anomia Ephippium* that is likewise almost crusted over with two or three species of *Lepralia*. It is large enough to be easily seen

Fig. 1.



with the naked eye, but of such minuteness that it may be readily passed over unnoticed, excepting by a naturalist of the practice and acuteness of its discoverer. The stalk creeps over the surface of the shell, to which it adheres loosely, and is divided at intervals without order or regularity,—the shoots forming sometimes a long simple thread, while at other places they anastomose freely. The shoots are very slender, filiform,

Fig. 2.



smooth, colourless and pellucid, tubular, unjointed and horny; and in general they are slightly swollen at the origins of the

cells. These appear to be rather seated on the tube than a development of it, though it is probable that there is a direct and free communication between them. The cells are scattered and always single, half a line in height, sessile, ovate, bulging below, horny, vesicular, slightly compressed, smooth, with a double keel down one side, each keel armed with from five to seven spinous teeth, placed sometimes nearly opposite, and in other instances alternating. The aperture is quadrangular, terminal and wide, half closed with a thin membrane, and furnished at each angle with a spinous denticle.

Though the polypes are unknown, yet there can be little hesitation, from the structure of the polypidom, in prognosticating their affinity to those of the family Vesiculariadæ.

Fig. 1. *Beania mirabilis*, represented as it appears on one part of the shell, considerably magnified.

Fig. 2. Three vesicles, more highly magnified, to show their characters more exactly.

XXXII.—*Descriptions, &c. of some rare or interesting Indigenous Insects.* By John Curtis, Esq., F.L.S., &c.

Most of the following species have been named and recorded in the 'Guide to an Arrangement of British Insects;' but as no opportunity offered of describing them during the progress of the 'British Entomology,' some of them have been noticed by other writers, who had not consulted the specimens, which will render it necessary to give a few definitions, which it is hoped will make it easy to identify them in future. The numbers refer to the Guide, and all the insects are in the cabinet of the author of the above works, excepting the *Hygrotus* and *Chrysomela*.

Order COLEOPTERA.

Fam. CARABIDÆ.

Genus 28. Dromius.

14. *angustatus.*

My specimen is $1\frac{1}{2}$ line long, but in other respects it agrees with *D. truncatellus*, and I suspect the *D. maurus* of Sturm is only a variety of the same insect.