

Antipathes? furcata, Gray (Pl. XI. fig. 2).

Antipathes furcata, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1857, p. 291.

“Coral, shrub-like, branched, repeatedly forked; branches, slender, elongate, filiform; stem, slender, short, and smooth” (Gray, *loc. cit.*).

Gray's type in the British Museum appears to me to represent only the apical portion of a branch with its branchlets of some large species allied to *Antipathes virgata*, Esper. The whole specimen is about 16 cm. high. The stem (?) is very slender and curved somewhat to one side; it bears a number of elongate bristle-like branches, all directed subvertically, and reaching about the same height. The branches give off secondary branches at irregular intervals, frequently from one side only; the lower ones bear a third series of branchlets, usually on one side only, giving rise to the “repeatedly forked” arrangements referred to by Gray. Nearly all the branchlets are directed upwards, and most of them reach the apex of the corallum, giving a subcorymbose growth. The axis throughout is very slender and brittle. The spines are short, triangular, and compressed, with the apex at right angles to the axis. They are apparently not arranged in regular spirals. Six longitudinal rows are visible from one aspect, the individual members of which are very far apart. Length of spine = $\frac{1}{2}$ diameter of axis; they are separated by an interval equal to three or four times their length (Pl. XI. fig. 2). The members of two adjoining rows are subopposite, recalling the arrangement in *Antipathes mediterranea*, n. sp.

Habitat.—Madeira (Mason), Brit. Mus.