

mens they adhered very firmly to the stones, and could scarcely be detached without injury to the base. When disturbed, they ejected water forcibly from the pores of the skin, along with their long white filaments, probably organs of defence, and possessing an urticating or benumbing property.

The range of colouring was very great, and was quite independent of the age or size of the specimens; but when several specimens were attached to the same stone, they were usually of the same colour. The prevailing tint externally was umber brown of various shades, but some specimens were fawn coloured, and this passed in others into a very pale flesh colour; some were beautifully striped with brown on a fawn or flesh coloured ground. In every case the colours of the disc and tentacles corresponded in intensity with those of the outer coat. The following descriptions show this relation in the more conspicuous colour varieties.

(a) Body externally very pale flesh colour, sometimes nearly white; oral bands pale flesh colour; outer tentacles rich flesh colour. The inner tentacles in this and the other varieties were paler than the outer. The specimen represented in Fig. 1 was of this variety.

(b) Body flesh colour or fawn, striped with brown; oral disc flesh colour; outer tentacles rich dark flesh colour. The specimen represented in Fig. 2 was of this colour.

(c) Body reddish brown; oral bands reddish orange; outer tentacles deep purple.

(d) Body umber brown, lighter when expanded; oral bands fawn or dull orange; outer tentacles purplish slate colour. Some of the largest specimens were of this colour, and presented a lurid or dingy aspect, very strongly contrasting with their delicately complexioned neighbours.

I have not met with any notice of the occurrence of *A. dianthus* in America, except in Stimpson's Marine Invertebrata of Grand Manan, where it is stated that a specimen supposed to belong to this species was taken, but lost before it could be examined. As already stated, I believe the specimens above described to be referrible to this species, but should they prove on comparison to be distinct and previously undiscovered, I shall claim for them the name of *A. Canadensis*.

(2.)—*Actinia* ————— ? N. S.

With the specimens just described were found a few individuals of a very distinct species, not unlike *A. Mesembryanthemum*,