MISCELLANEA

COELENTERATES.

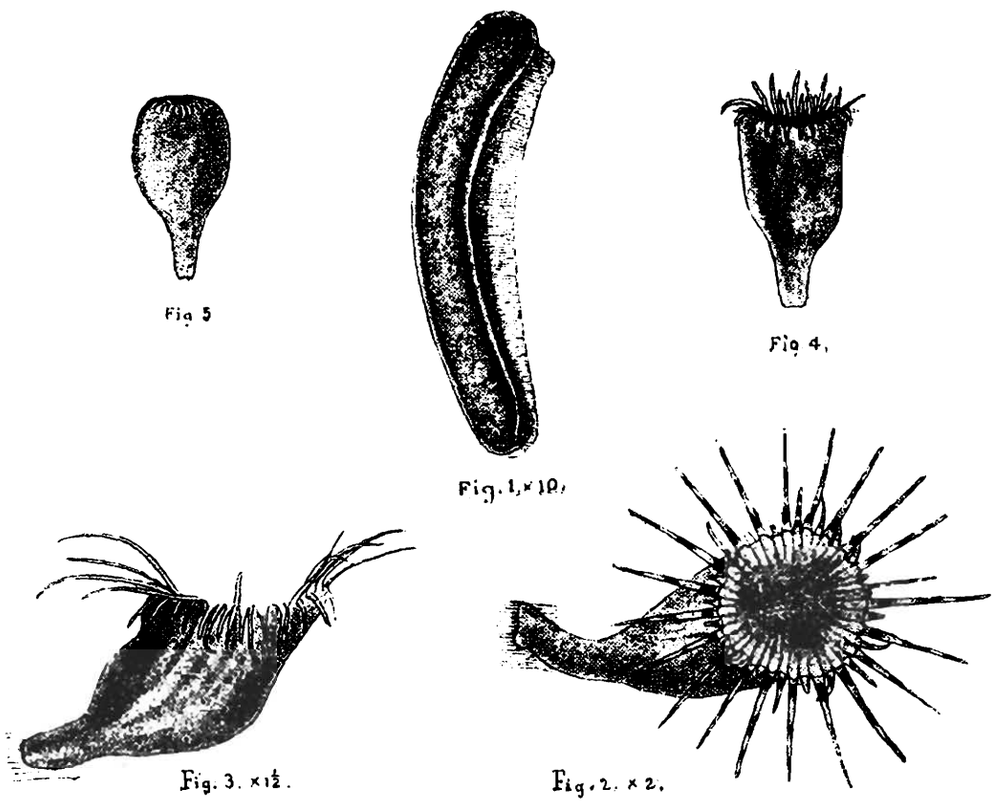
NOTE ON THE GENUS *Anactinia*.—In 1909, there appeared in this Journal, Vol. III, pages 157–162, a paper by Dr. Annandale, under the heading "A pelagic sea-anemone without tentacles." The paper concluded by establishing a new genus and new species *Anactinia pelagica*, for the reception of the animal described therein. Dr. Pax in his reference to the paper in the *Zoologisches Zentralblatt*, Vol. XVII, 1910, pp. 299–300, regarded the animal as identical with a pelagic larva which he had previously described in 1908, and had no doubt as to the larval nature of *Anactinia*. The specimens described by Dr. Annandale were obtained by him at Puri on the Orissa coast of the Bay of Bengal in February 1909. Similar specimens had been obtained by me in previous years at Madras, in February and March in the tow-net and had attracted my attention, among other features, by their large size; but I took them to be pelagic Cerianthid larvae and did not subject them to any special examination. Since reading Dr. Annandale's paper, however, I began to attach some importance and fresh interest to them; and I have been hoping to subject them to observation especially with the view to determine whether they are really larvae or adults. A couple of specimens obtained last year were kept in sea-water; while one of them gradually dwindled and died, the other after some days metamorphosed into a form with tentacles. This lived for about a month or so and then was unfortunately lost sight of. This year I have obtained several specimens, and am keeping them alive. Already five of them have gone through their metamorphosis and the tentacled forms now rest, on the bottom of the glass. I have also got living a specimen which I got in the tow-net some time in September of last year. This specimen has now got thirty-nine marginal tentacles and is a *Cerianthus* (*sensu lato*). When fully stretched at feeding time, it measures five inches in length without the tentacles, and has a cross-diameter of half an inch; ordinarily when it is not so extended, it measures about three and a half inches in length. A comparison of the external features of this and the other specimens recently obtained from the larvae points to their identity. There can in any case be no doubt that the specimens obtained by Dr. Annandale and myself are larvae, and that the most important character on which the genus is based, *viz.* the absence of tentacles, is a purely larval feature.

I have not yet dissected any of the specimens; but when the necessary literature is received I hope to determine the

identity of the animal and to publish a further note along with figures.

K. RAMUNNI MENON.

PRELIMINARY NOTE ON THE METAMORPHOSIS OF *Zoanthella*. —Two species of larvae of Zoanthella and one of Zoanthina occur at Madras. During February-April of last year, I obtained several specimens of one of the Zoanthellas and kept them in sea-water. They fixed themselves to the bottoms of glass vessels and sprouted tentacles and it has been possible to rear them successfully. I have nine of last year's lot living at present, and some of them at the time of writing are more than thirteen months old. The largest specimen measures, when moderately extended, one inch



in length and about half an inch across the peristome from edge to edge. It has now fifty tentacles. The same specimen had thirty tentacles at the end of July, 1913. The tentacles are in two cycles of alternately long and short and in the extended condition are held alternately raised and depressed. In the larger of the remaining specimens, the numbers of tentacles are 42, 44, 46, and 48. The accompanying figures show the animal in various changes of form. The animal is attached by a short peduncle the area of attachment at the end of which is very small; some of the specimens which have accidentally become detached do not fix themselves again. The column is opaque white with a tinge of yellowish brown, the peristome is clearer and translucent with light brown radiating lines and the tentacles are grey to light