

adjusted to each other, in which the body and viscera are contained. The upper part of the receptacle is covered by a plated integument, in which there is an opening for the mouth. From the brim or margin, proceed five jointed arms, which subdivide into branches of extreme tenuity; the upper and inner side of the arms support numerous articulated *cirri*, or feelers. The joints composing the column of support are pentangular, very numerous, and have a central cavity or perforation, and there are side-arms, or articulated tentacula, that radiate from the column in groups of five, at different points. The upper part of the skeleton is figured, *Wond.* Tab. 115.

In a living state the skeleton is covered by the integuments which secrete it; the mouth is situated in the centre of the plated integument of the receptacle, and surrounded by the five arms, which, when spread out, with their numerous *cirri*, form a net for the capture of the prey, and convey it to the mouth. It is scarcely necessary to remark that each *Pentacrinus* is an individual organism, and not an aggregation of animals, as are the *Polypiaria*, examined in the preceding chapter.

The fossil remains of the *Crinoideæ* consist of the ossicula, or little bones of the column, arms, and tentacula; of the plates of the receptacle; and of the peduncle, or process of attachment, by which the animal was permanently fixed to the rock. The peduncle is in some species flat and expanded,