

designate the same plant, the stinging-nettle;* but it seems not quite certain that, in either case, he had the stinging Gelatines or sea-nettles in his eye. Describing his *Acalephē*, he says, "It adheres to the rocks, as do some of the shellfish, but sometimes it roves at large. It has no shell, but the whole body is fleshy. If the hand is moved to it, it perceives, seizes, and adheres to it, like the Polype, by means of its tentacles,† so that the flesh swells. It has its mouth in the middle, and the rock seems to serve it for a shell: if it meets with any of the small fishes, it detains them in the same way that it does the hand. Thus whatever edible thing it meets with, it devours. One kind of them is at large, and devours whatever sea-urchins,‡ or cockles,§ it meets with: it appears to have no excrement, in this respect resembling plants. There are *two* kinds of *Acalephēs*; one smaller, and best adapted for the table; the other large and hard, such as are produced about Chalcis. In the winter their flesh is firm—they are therefore caught and eaten at that season—but in summer they dissolve, for they become watery, and when touched they immediately are so damaged as not to be removeable.|| When suffering from the heat, they withdraw within the rocks."¶ And again—"It has a mouth in the middle, which is chiefly conspicuous in the large ones; it has, like the bivalve shellfish, a passage by which the excrements are voided, which is in their upper surface: like them, too, it has the fleshy part within, but it uses the rock as a shell."**

With regard to his *Cnidē*, of which he treats at the same

* Heschius explains *Ακαληφαι* by *Κνίδαι*.

† Gr. *πλεκταναι*.

‡ *Εχινοι*.

§ Gr. *κτενες*.

|| The word I have rendered watery (*μαδαρος*) means properly without hairs; but *μαδαω* is used by Theophrastus to express moisture, and is used here evidently in a similar sense.

¶ Aristot. Hist. Anim. l. iv. c. 6.

** Ibid. l. viii. c. 2.