PLANARIA LACTEA.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus gelatinosum, planiusculum ; poro ventrali duplici ; ore terminali ?

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

PLANARIA depressa oblonga alba antè trunca-
cata.

Lin. Syst. Nat. Gmel. p. 3090.

Hirudo depressa alba, lateribus acutis.

Lin. it. goth. p. 250.

Planariæ genus a sagacissimo Mullero institutum, generi Hirudinis adeo est affine, ut illud et marinum Doridis genus quasi vinculo quodam videatur connectere. Aquas dulces incolunt Planariæ ; quarum mensibus æstivis plures cernuntur species in rivulis et stagnis. Motu plerumque feruntur lento et æquabili ; hirudinum tamen ad instar se interdum quaquaversum flectentes, et diversimodo se vel contrahendi vel extendendi facultate pollentes. Radunt, ut plurimum, iter super plantas aquaticas ; si vero, ut interdum fit, paululum spatii processerint sub ipsa aqua, inversæ natant, supino ventre. Abundant per æstatem rivuli et stagna specie quam depiximus magnitudine tum vera tum auctiore. Cum semipel-
lucida

lucida sit cutis, viscera pulchre pinnata videantur.
Magna est Planariis se regenerandi vis, et si perita
incisura fuerint divisæ, certo tempore totidem per-
fecta repullulabunt animalia.

THE WHITE PLANARIA.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body gelatinous, flattish, with two ventral pores.
Mouth terminal?

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Oblong, white, depressed PLANARIA, truncated in front.

Milk-white PLANARIA, Purple-veined PLANARIA, &c.

The genus *Planaria*, first instituted by the accurate Muller, is nearly allied to that of *Hirudo*, and, in reality, seems to form a link between that and the marine genus *Doris*. The *Planariæ* are natives of fresh waters, and many species may be found in rivers and stagnant waters: their general motion is smooth, flowish, and even; accompanied with various occasional flexures, and with all the degrees of contraction and extension which are exhibited in the genus *Hirudo*. They are generally seen moving over the surface of aquatic plants, and sometimes immediately below the surface of the water itself, swimming in an inverted position. The species here
repre-

represented, both in its natural size, as well as magnified, is a frequent inhabitant of ponds and rivulets in the summer season : The viscera form an elegantly pinnated appearance thro' the semitransparent skin of the animal. The Planariæ possess the power of reproduction, and when divided by a clean incision, will within a certain space, be multiplied into so many complete animals.

Shaw, George. 1800. "The White Planaria, *Planaria lactea* [Pl. 424]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 11(CXXVIII), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.310871>.

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