

consisting of a slender central shaft, with a cross of four short transverse processes in the centre. The outer half of the central axis is delicately feathered. The lower surface of the sponge (Fig. 67) is protected by a singularly elegant net-work of sarcode, with wide oval and round meshes radiating irregularly from a central point. The membrane is traversed by irregularly radiating ridges of firmer substance, which unite in the centre in a projecting boss at the point where in this specimen the "glass rope" has unfortunately been torn out.

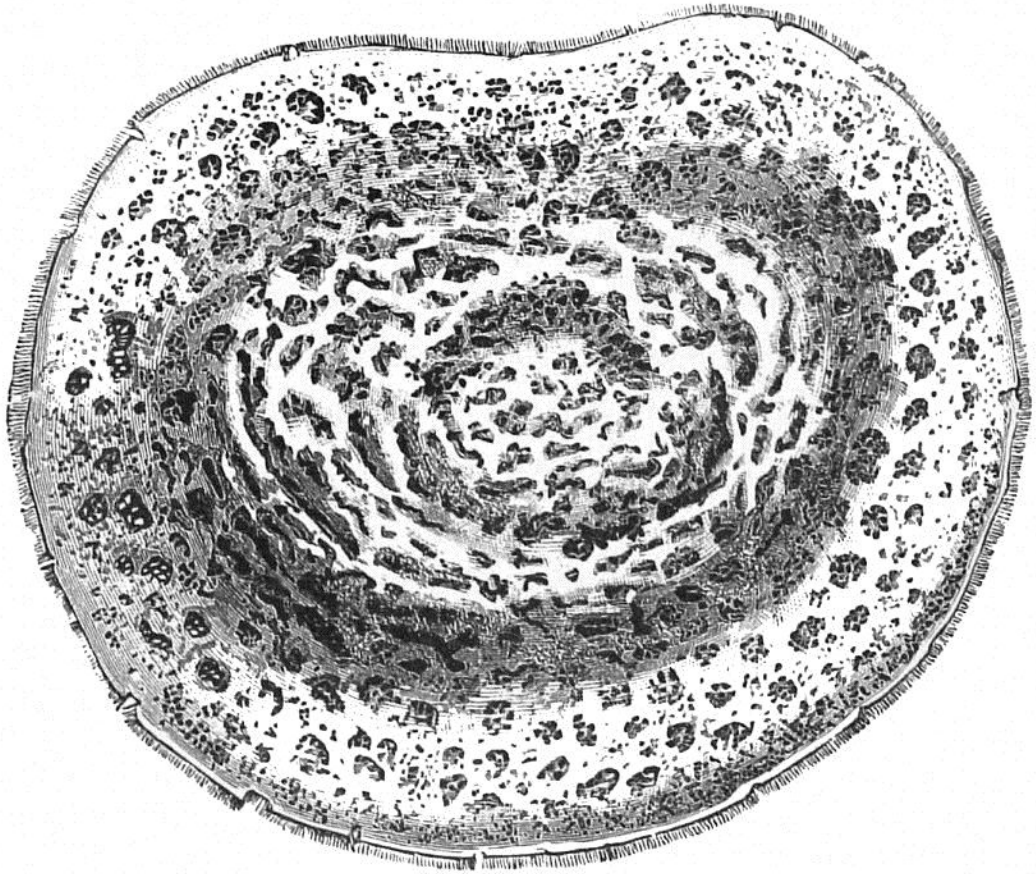


FIG. 66.—*Hyalomema toxeres*, WYVILLE THOMSON. Upper surface, natural size. (No. 24.)

In minute structure, *Hyalomema toxeres* corresponds in all essential respects with *H. Sieboldi* and *H. Lusitanicum*. All the spicules are of the same ground-forms, with some little differences in detail, with the exception of one remarkable spicule which enters largely into the structure of *H. toxeres*, and serves to distinguish even the smallest portion of it. This is a large spicule, the largest above a centimetre in length, and more than half a millimetre in width in the centre, shaped like a bow or