

of numerous radial spines, which meet in the centre of the capsule. In most cases, twenty such spines are present, and in accordance with a curious law, discovered by Johannes Müller, these are geometrically divided into five zones, each containing four of these spines (figs. 89, 90). In the Acanthometræ these give rise to no special perforated shell, whilst in the Acanthophractæ this is developed into many varied and delicate forms.

“The Spumellaria include that large group of Radiolaria whose simple capsular membrane is perforated by minute pores, and whose nucleus divides only at a later

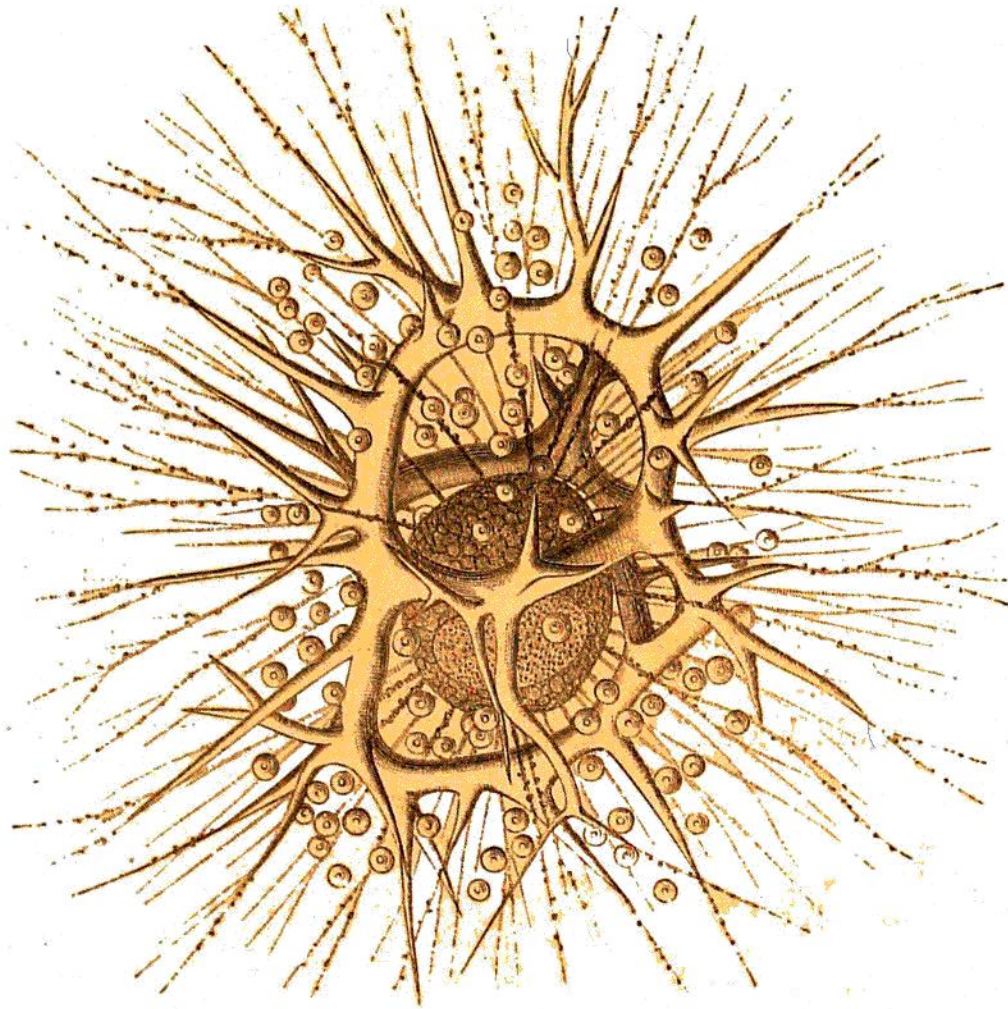


FIG. 95.—*Lithocoronis challengeri*, n. gen. et sp.

stage (at the time of reproduction) into numerous spore-nuclei. In only a few families (Thalassicollida, Collozoida) the skeleton is entirely wanting, or is reduced to single scattered spicules (Thalassosphærida, Sphærozoida). The skeleton usually consists of a latticed sphere (Sphæroida), which is developed into multifarious forms—stars, disks, concentric, sponge-like, flinty shells, &c. (see figs. 91 and 92). These are often rendered conspicuous by radial spines and processes of curious and varied form.

“The Nassellaria are distinguished from the two preceding groups by the peculiar structure of their central capsule, from which the pseudopodia protrude only at a per-