

forms belonging to the families Muricidæ and Gorgonidæ were taken, and numerous species belonging to the genera *Acanella*, *Ceratoisis*, *Sclerisis*, and *Lepidisis* of the family Isidæ.

“ But few species of the suborders Briareacea and Melithæacea were collected.

“ Coralleacea—No living species of the genus *Corallium* was discovered, but some worn specimens were found at Banda and the Ki Islands,¹ which Mr. S. O. Ridley describes as follows :—

“ One specimen was a large well-branched example, 9 inches high by 5 inches in greatest diameter above, greatest diameter at base 22 mm. The branching is essentially in one plane, while its fundamental plan appears to be dichotomous, it is not strictly adhered to, and the larger branches are more or less regularly pinnate, with marginal twigs of small size. The stem and larger branches have their antero-posterior diameter decidedly larger than the lateral diameter. The longitudinal striæ of the hard axis are delicate and numerous, viz., about 4 to 1 mm. on an average in the larger axes. A transverse section of one of the small pinnæ exhibited the structure characteristic of the axes of members of this family. The section, like the exterior of the corallum itself as seen with the naked eye, is devoid of positive colour; with the exception of a few pale red points in the centre of the section which are evidently embedded spicules, and appear to have the stellate form characteristic of the family, no free spicules could be found. The specimen, which had evidently been dead for some time, as the longitudinal striæ are obliterated in places, and besides being encrusted with Polyzoa, a delicate Sponge, &c., is much excavated, apparently by Worms and boring Sponges, was obtained on the 26th September 1874, in 129 fathoms, off the Ki Islands. The second specimen, which measures only 2½ inches in height and diameter, the greatest diameter of the stem being 10 mm., agrees so closely in all its external characters with the first, that it is unnecessary to describe it further, except by saying that all the clean broken surfaces of the branches exhibit a pure white colour, whereas the first specimen shows a faint pink coloration on the broken surfaces of five small branches. It was obtained off Banda, in 200 fathoms. With regard to the genus and species to which these specimens should be referred, it must be stated that, in the absence of the cortex, a final decision is impossible. In the general external characters (with the exception of the colour) they resemble very closely the only known species to which on distributional grounds it is likely that they would belong, viz., *Corallium (Pleurocorallium) secundum*, Dana, which is known to inhabit Japanese seas. This species (as shown by the series of specimens exhibited in the Japanese Court at the International Fisheries Exhibition, 1883) varies very greatly in its external coloration, being apparently in some cases wholly white externally, like the present specimens; if therefore it is remembered that their maceration in sea water would probably destroy or alter a bright red surface colour, and that in parts the corallum still retains a red tint, the improbability, founded on colour, of the identifica-

¹ Another specimen of *Corallium* has recently been found by Prof. Moseley in the dredgings off Prince Edward Island.