Sir John Murray & Johan Hjort, The Depths of the Ocean: Scientific Researches of the Norwegian Steamer Michael Sars (1912)

origin, derived from (1) the decomposition of terrestrial and submarine rocks, (2) extra-terrestrial sources, (3) products synthesized at the bottom of the sea.

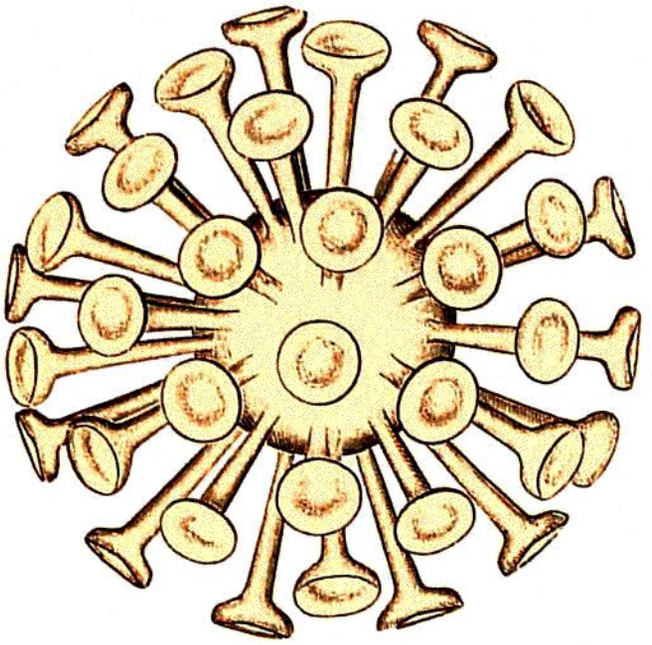

FIG. 108.
Discosphæra thomsoni, Ostenfeld. From the surface ($\frac{200}{1}$).

Organic remains belonging to the vegetable kingdom are on the whole comparatively rare on the sea-floor, when compared with those belonging to the animal kingdom; still, in the neighbourhood of land, vegetable matter, branches of trees, leaves, fruits, etc., may be carried into deep water through the agency of large rivers, storms, off-shore winds, etc., along with the remains of sea-weeds growing in shallow water. Similarly in coral-reef regions, the remains of algæ which lived on the reefs, such as *Lithothamnium* and *Corallina*, occur in the deposits in the vicinity. But the most constant components of vegetable origin are the remains of algæ, which secreted either calcium carbonate or silica from the surface waters of the ocean to form their hard parts, viz. the calcareous coccospheres and rhabdospheres (see

Materials of organic origin.

Plant remains in marine deposits.

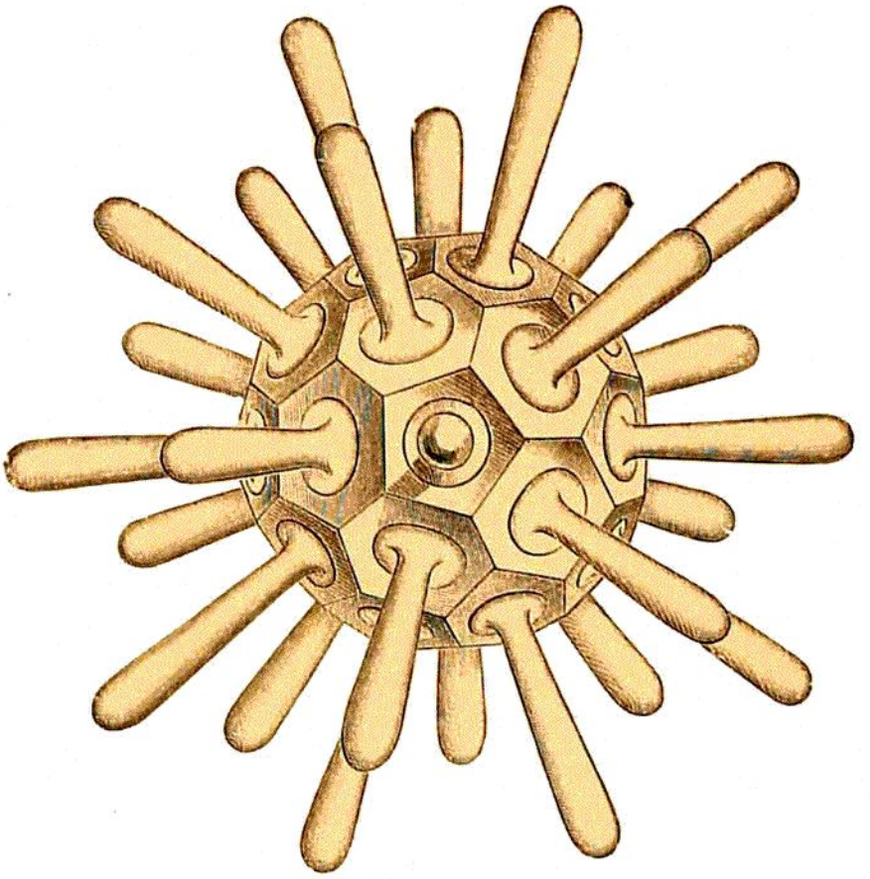

FIG. 109.
Rhabdosphæra claviger, Murray and Blackman. From the surface ($\frac{200}{1}$).

http://19thcenturyscience.org/HMSC/HMSC-Reports/1912-Murray/README.htm