(9) *Lepralia marsupium*, Macgillivray.

Lepralia marsupium, Macgilliv., Nat. Hist. Vict., Dec. iv. p. 22, pl. xxxv. fig. 4.
Porella marsupium, Hincks; Macgilliv., Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict., pt. 3, 1882, pl. i. fig. 2.
? *Porella minuta*, Norman.
Schizoporella marsupium, S. O. Ridley, Proc. Zool. Soc., 1881, p. 48.

Character.—Zoœcia ventricose, subquadrangular, deeply immersed, surface granular; primary orifice arched above, with a straight or slightly sinuated lower border, in front of which is a pouch-like avicularium with a semicircular mandible, placed horizontally. Three or four articulated marginal spines above (usually detached). Oœcia (very numerous) globose, smooth. Operculum semicircular, the lower border with two very obtuse angles.

Habitat.—Station 315, lat. 51° 40′ S., long. 57° 50′ W., 12 fathoms, sand and gravel. [Australia, Macgillivray.]

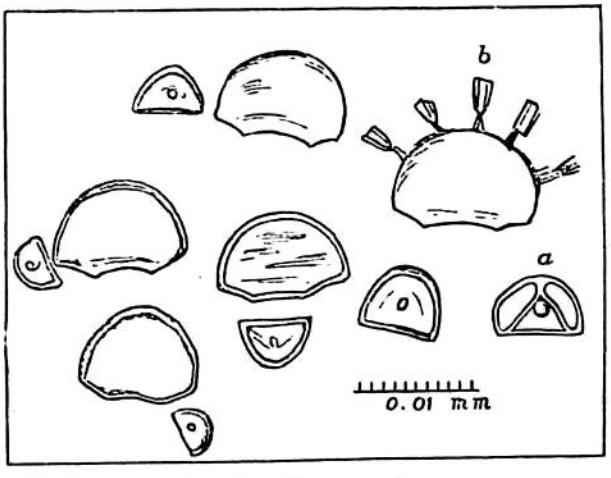

FIG. 44.—*Lepralia marsupium.*
a, Mandible of *Porella compressa.*
b, Operculum and oral spines of *Lepralia marsupium.*

At first sight this form might readily be taken for a *Porella*, as in fact it is considered by Mr. Hincks, who also suggests that the Australian form is nearly related to Dr. Norman's *Lepralia minuta* from Guernsey and Shetland. This I think is highly probable. But neither Mr. Hincks in his description of *Porella marsupium* (Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist. ser. 5, vol. viii. p. 123, 1881) nor Mr. Norman make any mention of the oral spines noticed by Mr. Macgillivray, which are present in the Challenger specimen on the marginal cells. Mr. Hincks further speaks of a tooth on the lower margin, which I should imagine would in his system have made the species either a *Mucronella* or a *Smittia*, but this I think is an error into which I at first fell myself; for in the Challenger specimen, the apparent tooth is in reality merely the projection upwards of the lower border of the median avicularium, which appears to occupy the same position, and to stand in the same relation to the mouth, as the median avicularium does in *Eschara foliacea* and not to be within its verge as in the typical *Porellæ*. In all the true *Porellæ*, moreover, the avicularian mandible presents a minute but constant character (not altogether however confined to that genus), which is wanting in the mandible of *Lepralia marsupium*, viz., the existence of a curved chitinous rod on each side of the central foramen, as shown at *a*, in the accompanying woodcut (fig. 44) which represents the mandible of *Porella compressa*. The existence of oral spines is clearly proved by their chitinous remains as shown at *b*.