

skeleton there are scopulæ of the ordinary type, some of which bear four uniformly thick and barb-beset prongs without marked terminal swelling, while others exhibit six thin, smooth, slightly S-shaped prongs, with minute marginally-toothed terminal discs. In the gastral skeleton I found no pentacts, or indeed any hypogastralia, except simple scopulæ in their usual position, with four uniformly thick, barb-beset, unknobbed prongs. Little Ki Island, 140 fathoms.

Genus 3. *Fieldingia*, Sav. Kent.

With the single species, *Fieldingia lagettoides*, Sav. Kent.

An irregular round, sometimes almost spherical body, which is usually ensheathed in a thin parallel enveloping capsule, and traversed internally by an irregular framework of thin round strands, which exhibit numerous spherical compact knots, about 1 mm. in diameter, and occurring at distances of 2 to 3 mm. While the thin strands consist of a few long beams, beset with small, scattered and pointed tubercles, the spherical knots are formed of a thick framework of beams with a similar superficial appearance. Both the large, more or less elongated, and the short reticulate beams of the spherical knots have abundant small rough hexacts soldered on to them, usually at right angles. These doubtless serve to enlarge or thicken the dictyonal framework. The leaf-like enveloping capsule which surrounds the larger portion of the sponge, consists of pentacts bound together in plates by a narrow-meshed network of synapticula extending in the tangential direction. The parenchyma contains, besides long uncinates and simple small hexacts, oxydiacts with central nodes and sharpened extremities, oxyhexasters with very short, in some cases almost undeveloped principals, and long smooth terminals, and also discohexasters with short principals and rather long, slightly curved terminals. The dermal skeleton contains, besides the above-mentioned pentacts, scopulæ with four uniformly cylindrical, slightly divergent prongs, which are wholly covered with barbs, but exhibit no terminal swelling. Portugal, 500 fathoms; Little Ki Island, 140 fathoms.

Genus 4. *Sclerothamnus*, W. Marshall.

With the single species *Sclerothamnus clausii*, W. Marshall.

A shrub-like, dichotomously branched stock, with long, round, and terminal branches as thick as a little finger, and bearing spiral or annular pads a little finger's breadth across, and alternating with somewhat narrower grooves. The somewhat thick dictyonal framework supporting the body consists of beams which enclose predominantly rectangular meshes, and exhibit superficially numerous small, irregularly scattered, wart-like and pointed tubercles. They are united without nodal thickening. While the main strands of fibres in the axis of the branches lie longitudinally, *i.e.*, parallel to the axis, in the