

In the simple form and arrangement of the spicules this is the most primitive of all genera of siliceous sponges. It is characteristic of littoral regions in most or all parts of the world, but never seems to occur in deep water. Schmidt was the first to really restrict the genus within reasonable limits,<sup>1</sup> but Vosmaer<sup>2</sup> has shown that he was in error in overlooking the earlier name *Halichondria*.

The original type of the genus is the well known and cosmopolitan species *Halichondria panicea*.

*Halichondria panicea*, Johnston (Pl. II. figs. 2, 3).

1842. *Halichondria panicea*, Johnston,<sup>3</sup> British Sponges, p. 114, pl. x. and pl. xi., fig. 5.

1870. *Amorphina panicea*, Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 77.

1881. *Amorphina megalorrhaphis*, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. vii. p. 368.

1884. *Amorphina megalorrhaphis*, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., p. 416.

1885. *Amorphina megalorrhaphis*, Ridley, Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. i. pt. ii. p. 571.

Vosmaer<sup>4</sup> has already given a good abstract of the history of this old and well-known species, to which we must refer the reader. A good description of the species is to be found in Johnston's British sponges (*loc. cit.*), and still further details are given by Bowerbank.<sup>5</sup>

Carter<sup>6</sup> has already described a specimen of *Halichondria panicea* (var.) from Kerguelen, which was obtained by the Transit of Venus expedition. Later (*loc. cit. sup.*) he describes his *Amorphina megalorrhaphis*, from the Basse Rocks, Ceylon, and in so doing makes the following observations:—"This seems to be a variety of the common British species *Halichondria panicea*, chiefly differentiated by the size of its largest spicules, which is double that of the English one. The spicules also of the specimens brought home by the Rev. A. E. Eaton from Kerguelen's Island, and others dredged up by H.M.S. "Porcupine" in the Atlantic Ocean, are much larger than those of the common British species; so that this variation may extend even to our own shores, while the single form, great variety in size, and long attenuation towards the end of the spicule generally characterise the species everywhere."

We have now to record a series of specimens<sup>7</sup> from Kerguelen, which to our mind completely establish the identity of the British *Halichondria panicea* with Mr. Carter's *Amorphina megalorrhaphis*.

While agreeing remarkably well in external form these specimens (of which there are seven or eight of fair size, in addition to smaller pieces) exhibit a great range in the

<sup>1</sup> *Amorphina*, *loc. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> Bronn's Klass. u. Ordnung. d. Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 337.

<sup>3</sup> For probable synonyms of older writers, *vide* Johnston, *loc. cit.*

<sup>4</sup> Bronn's Klass. u. Ordnung. d. Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 336.

<sup>5</sup> Mon. Brit. Spong., vol. ii. p. 229.

<sup>6</sup> *Phil. Trans. Roy. Soc.*, vol. clxviii. p. 286.

<sup>7</sup> One of these specimens was figured in the preliminary account, Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. i. pt. ii. p. 571, fig. 188.