

slight; a more noteworthy one lies in the arrangement of the spicules, for in our variety the primary fibres are well marked off from the secondary ones, and contain more than one row of spicules, usually about two or three. We cannot, therefore, say of our sponge, as Schmidt does of his types of the species, "Die doppelspitzigen Nadeln bilden das charakteristische einreihige Netzwerk der ächten Renieren." There is not, however, by any means sufficient difference to justify the erection of a new species. As no one has ever figured this interesting form, we take the present opportunity of doing so; no one besides Schmidt seems hitherto to have met with it.

*Locality*.—Station 75, July 2, 1873; lat. 38° 38' N., long. 28° 28' 30" W.; off the Azores; depth, 450 fathoms; bottom, volcanic mud. About a dozen specimens.

*Habitat*.—Adriatic Sea (Schmidt); off the Azores (Challenger).

*Reniera aquæductus*, Schmidt, var. *infundibularis*, nov. (Pl. I. fig. 2; Pl. II. fig. 8).

1862. *Reniera aquæductus*, Schmidt, Spong. Adriat. Meeres, p. 73, pl. vii. figs. 6, 6a, 6b.

1884. *Reniera* sp., Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., p. 410.

Sponge (Pl. I. fig. 2) consisting of a thin lamella, folded so as to form irregular funnels and tubes which may anastomose. The largest specimen is a complex, hollow, thin-walled mass growing together with a *Gorgonia*; the shape of the whole is very irregular, and its greatest length is about 100 mm. The wall of the sponge is only about 2 mm. thick. *Colour* in spirit pale yellow. *Texture* very delicate, spongy and fragile. *Surface* uneven but smooth. *Dermal membrane* very thin and transparent, allowing the round or oval subdermal cavities to show through, and thus giving to the surface a beautiful reticulate appearance.

*Skeleton*.—Typically Renierid in arrangement, *i.e.*, forming a rectangular, unispicular reticulation.

*Spicules*.—Small, smooth, very slightly curved oxea (Pl. II. fig. 8), rather slender and sharply pointed at each end; size about 0.17 by 0.008 mm.

This variety differs from the types of the species mainly in external form; forming funnel-shaped or only irregularly tubular masses instead of regular cylindrical tubes.

The name *infundibularis* was suggested by Ridley<sup>1</sup> in 1884 for some fragments of a *Reniera* obtained by the "Alert" in Torres Strait, which may probably be included under this species, and which also differ from the types in not forming definite symmetrical tubes; this sponge agrees so closely in spiculation and external form (though, from the fact that fragments only were obtained, we cannot say certainly that it was *infundibularis*) with the Challenger variety, that it seems desirable to include both under the same name.

<sup>1</sup> Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., p. 411, 1884.