

Genus *Trachytedania*, Ridley (Pl. XXIII.).

1881. *Trachytedania*, Ridley, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., January 4, 1881, p. 122.

Styli, in part or all, spined.

The first species of the genus was obtained by the "Alert" in Portland Bay, Chili; in it the characteristic spination of the stylote spicule, which distinguishes this genus from the closely allied genus *Tedania*, is only very faintly marked. The Challenger adds one new species, from off the south-west coast of Patagonia, in which the spination of the stylus is very strongly marked; it is, however, an open question whether this character is in itself sufficient to separate the two genera; Vosmaer,<sup>1</sup> however, accepts the genus *Trachytedania* as distinct. We have found it advisable to make some alterations in the generic diagnosis.

*Trachytedania patagonica*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXIII. figs. 6, 6a, 6b, 6c).

1886. *Trachytedania patagonica*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 336.

Sponge represented by two small, irregularly shaped specimens; massive, amorphous. Length of largest fragment about 37 mm. Colour in spirit pale yellow. Texture soft and crumbling. Surface uneven, with slight traces of hispidation. Dermal membrane thin but distinct. Oscula (?) small, scattered. Pores scattered; in some parts of the dermal membrane almost or entirely wanting, in other parts fairly abundant.

*Skeleton*.—Very loose and irregular, consisting of a somewhat "Isodictyal" reticulation of spicules, chiefly of spined styli, but with a small admixture of oxea (tornota). No distinct fibre. Immediately beneath the dermal membrane are a number of irregular, divergent tufts of oxeote (tornote) spicules, while similar spicules are scattered through the dermal membrane itself, forming, together with some of the stylote spicules, a very sparse and irregular dermal reticulation.

*Spicules*.—(a) *Megasclera*; of two kinds—(1) Rather stout, slightly curved, spined styli (Pl. XXIII. figs. 6, 6a, 6b); spined all over, except perhaps at the extreme apex; but with the spination most marked at the base; size about 0.35 by 0.0125 mm. (2) Straight, short oxea (tornota) (Pl. XXIII. fig. 6c), stoutest towards the centre and tapering gradually to a slightly hastate point at each end; size about 0.245 by 0.007 mm. Both the form of these spicules and their position in the sponge show that they are homologous with the "bicapitate cylindricals" (tylota) in the typical *Tedaniæ*, and with the corresponding "cylindricals" of *Trachytedania spinata*, Ridley.<sup>2</sup> (b) *Microsclera*; very fine, scattered, oxeote raphides, slightly thicker at one end than at the other; length about 0.2 mm., often (? always) spined near the broader end with fine spines directed towards that end of the spicule.

<sup>1</sup> Porifera, Bronn's Klass. u. Ordn. d. Thierreichs, p. 340.

<sup>2</sup> Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., January 4, 1881, p. 123.