

about 0.04 mm.; (2) simple and contort sigmata, measuring up to about 0.063 mm. in length, but varying greatly in this respect.

This species resembles *Halichondria isodictyalis* of Carter,¹ but the chelæ, sigmata and styli are all smaller in that species than here, and further, the head of the stylus is smaller than the shaft.

Locality.—Off the south-west coast of Patagonia (Station 308 or 311, or both). Five specimens.

Myxilla spongiosa, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXVII. figs. 3, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 3f).

1886. *Myxilla spongiosa*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 471.

Sponge massive, encrusting, growing all round a worm-tube, which it encrusts for a length of 69 mm. and to a thickness of about 12 mm. in the middle. *Texture* extremely soft and spongy. (The condition of the sponge is so bad that no further account of the external characters is practicable.)

Skeleton.—(a) *Dermal*; a thick but confused reticulation of scattered tylote spicules. (b) *Main*; a very confused reticulation of smooth styli.

Spicules.—(a) *Megasclera*; of two kinds; (1) smooth, stout, slightly curved styli (Pl. XXVII. fig. 3), tapering gradually to a sharp point at the apex; size about 0.7 by 0.02 mm.; making up the main skeleton. (2) Tylota (Pl. XXVII. figs. 3a, 3b), with well-developed oval heads, usually (? invariably) minutely spined at the end; size up to about 0.4 by 0.01 mm.; dermal. (b) *Microsclera*; of two kinds; (1) tridentate isochelæ (Pl. XXVII. figs. 3c, 3d), with the shaft laterally expanded towards each end; length about 0.05 mm. (2) Rather stout sigmata (Pl. XXVII. figs. 3e, 3f), usually much contort; size about 0.063 by 0.0045 mm. Both kinds of microsclera are abundant.

The condition of this specimen unfortunately prevents more detailed description, but the spiculation is sufficient to distinguish it from other species; it will be seen to approach *Myxilla mollis*, nobis, in this respect, but differs in details. Besides having the stylus smooth, as in *Myxilla mollis*, the species further diverges from the more normal character of *Myxilla* in the large size of the megasclera and chelæ.

Locality.—Station 320, February 14, 1876; lat. 37° 17' S., long. 53° 52' W.; off the mouth of the Rio de la Plata; depth, 600 fathoms; bottom, green sand; bottom temperature, 37°.2. One specimen.

Myxilla hastata, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXVII. figs. 1, 1a, 1b, 1c).

1886. *Myxilla hastata*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 472.

Sponge forming a flattened lamella, the shape of which cannot be ascertained, as there are only fragments in the collection. The largest piece measures about 69 mm. by

¹ Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. ix. p. 285.