

Ciocalypta hyaloderma, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXXIII. figs. 2, 2a).

1886. *Ciocalypta hyaloderma*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii.
p. 479.

Sponge (Pl. XXXIII. fig. 2) cylindrical, or subcylindrical; ramose. The largest piece in the collection consists of a very short, stout, basal portion (evidently broken off below), from which two short branches diverge at a very wide angle; distance from apex of one branch to that of the other 40 mm.; diameter of branches from about 8 to 13 mm. A second fragment is cylindrical, measuring 44 mm. in length by 10 mm. in diameter; it gives off a single branch near the middle, of which the stump only remains. *Colour* in spirit dirty brown. *Texture* very delicate and fragile. *Surface* fairly even. *Dermal membrane* (Pl. XXXIII. fig. 2a) very delicate, absolutely transparent; supported at some distance from the underlying tissues (which can be distinctly seen through it) on slender pillars; marked with numerous little white stars, caused by the spicules which compose the supporting pillars radiating as they abut against it and forming the principal nodes in a well-developed dermal reticulation of spiculo-fibre. *Oscula* (Pl. XXXIII. fig. 2a) scattered over the branches, of fair size, each surrounded by a prominent membranous collar; about 2 mm. in diameter. *Pores*, round openings in the dermal membrane, about 0.05 mm. in diameter; rather difficult to make out on account of the extreme transparency of the dermal membrane even when examined in spirit.

Skeleton.—Consisting, in the solid central portion, of a loose reticulation of bands of spiculo-fibre and detached spicules, with a very marked preponderance of longitudinal fibres. Short pillars of spiculo-fibre, as already stated, connect the central portion of the sponge with the dermal membrane; the spicules at the distal ends of these pillars expand into divergent brushes which form each a "node" in the dermal reticulation. The dermal reticulation is very well developed and very wide meshed, consisting of usually stout bands of spiculo-fibre, radiating, roughly speaking, from the distal ends of the supporting pillars, and branching and anastomosing with one another.

Spicules.—*Megasclera*; of one form only; viz., smooth, usually slightly curved, fairly gradually but not very sharply pointed styli, commonly narrowing slightly towards the base; these are variable in size, in the dermal reticulation they commonly measure about 0.53 by 0.014 mm., while in the central portion of the sponge they measure about 1.0 by 0.037 mm.

This species certainly comes very near to the original type of the genus, viz., *Ciocalypta penicillus*, Bowerbank; but is distinguished by its different growth and much more delicate structure throughout; the central axis is not so dense as in that species, and the dermal reticulation is not so confused and has much wider meshes.¹ The spicules also attain a considerably larger size than in *Ciocalypta penicillus*.

¹ In this respect Bowerbank's *Ciocalypta levi*, which is no doubt a very young specimen of *Ciocalypta penicillus*, resembles the present species.