

Off Tristan da Cunha, October 18, 1873; depth, 100 fathoms. One specimen.

Off Nightingale Island, Tristan da Cunha; depth, 100 to 150 fathoms. Two specimens, and also a third, which, though it differs rather strikingly in external form from the rest, we have decided to include in this species pending further discoveries. The specimen in question is erect, clathrous, and proliferously branched; the branches are very short and compressed (Pl. XXXV. fig. 1).

*Habitat.*—? British Isles (Bowerbank); Atlantic Ocean, between the North of Scotland, the Shetland and the Farøe Islands (Carter); South Atlantic and Southern Ocean (Challenger).

*Axinella echidnæa*, Ridley, var. n. (Pl. XXXVI. fig. 3).

1813. (?) *Spongia echidnæa*, Lamarck, Ann. Mus. Hist. Nat., vol. xx. p. 448.

1884. *Axinella echidnæa*, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., p. 462, pl. xliii. fig. a.

There occurs in the collection a single specimen (Pl. XXXVI. fig. 3), from off Bahia, which we propose to consider as a variety of the above-mentioned species. The various points in which it deviates from the type of the species may be briefly enumerated as follows:—(1) *External appearance*; the type specimens have, for the most part, a broadly flabellate form, while the Challenger specimen, consisting, however, of only a single branch, is (like one of the types) cylindrical, and its surface is beset with numerous irregular prominences; these prominences are much larger, broader and further apart than in the type. (2) *Spiculation*; the spicules are, as in the type, smooth oxea and styli, the former being much more abundant than the latter. In the present variety the oxeote spicule measures about 0.5 by 0.022 mm. and the stylus about the same. For the type, however, the spiculation is given as follows:—“(1) Smooth, slightly curved acerate, tapering gradually to sharp points, or more or less blunted at one or both ends; size .3 by .0095 to .44 by .0127 millim.: these forms compose the main bulk of the skeleton. (2) Long smooth acuate, generally slightly curved, tapering gradually to a fine point; size about 1.1 by .0127 millim.: forming part of longitudinal skeleton-lines of surface-tufts.” Styli (acuates) as long as those here mentioned appear, however, to be very rare in the type, and considering the well-known irregularity of the Axinellid spiculation in general we feel quite justified in not separating the two forms specifically.

*Locality.*—Off Bahia, shallow water. One specimen.

*Habitat.*—Torres Strait (“Alert”); off Bahia (Challenger).

*Axinella fibrosa*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXXVII. fig. 3).

1886. *Axinella fibrosa*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 481.

Sponge (Pl. XXXVII. fig. 3) erect, massive, dividing into many lobes at the summit. Height of specimen 162 mm.; breadth 87 mm. *Colour* in spirit greyish-yellow.