

project freely, and, together with a dense dermal crust of small, projecting, tylostylote spicules, give rise to the hispid character of the head. The interspaces between the radiating bands of spiculo-fibre are occupied by loosely and irregularly scattered tylostylote spicules.

*Spicules.*—*Megasclera*; (1) very long, straight, slender, smooth styli or subtylostyli, very finely and gradually pointed at the apex; size about 1·8 by 0·016 mm. (2) Much smaller, straight, slender tylostyli with well-developed, subglobular heads, and very sharply and gradually pointed at the apex; size rather variable, about 0·35 by 0·0063 mm.

As regards spiculation there is but little characteristic about this species; the great slenderness of the long stylote spicules, and the presence of a fairly well defined dermal crust of smaller tylostyli may be noted. The external form, though variable, is very characteristic; the elongated oval shape of the head and the relative shortness of the stalk being its prominent features.

*Locality.*—Station 75, July 2, 1873; lat. 38° 38' 0" N., long. 28° 28' 30" W.; off the Azores; depth, 450 fathoms; bottom, volcanic mud. Eight specimens.

*Suberites spiralis*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXV. fig. 1).

1886. *Suberites spiralis*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 486.

Sponge (Pl. XXV. fig. 1) erect, stipitate; cylindrical, with the stalk produced upwards, as an axis, right through the body of the sponge. Height 88 mm.; length of stalk 31 mm.; diameter of stalk 2 mm.; of body 6 mm. *Colour* in spirit pale yellow. *Texture* of stalk and axis very dense and firm; of body fairly firm, but rather open and compressible. *Surface* very minutely hispid. *Oscula* scattered over the body of the sponge.

*Skeleton.*—Consisting of a dense, stout, central axis of longitudinally placed spicules, from which, in the body of the sponge, radiate loose fibres to the surface, arranged in a somewhat spiral manner and terminating in loose, radiating brushes of smaller spicules with outwardly directed apices.

*Spicules.*—*Megasclera*; (1) long, slender, straight, or nearly straight, sharp-pointed tylostyli; with well-marked, but not very large, subglobular heads; size about 1·0 by 0·013 mm.; these constitute the skeleton fibres. (2) Similar, but much smaller spicules, occurring in the surface brushes, length about 0·4 mm., but not very constant.

In the presence of a distinct axis with radiating fibres this sponge resembles the Axinellidæ. The habit is decidedly that of an Axinellid, and it seems to strengthen the possibility of a close relationship between the Axinellidæ and Suberitidæ. The peculiar spiral arrangement of the skeleton fibres in the body of the sponge is to be found still more distinctly shown in *Stylocordyla stipitata*, var. *globosa* (vide woodcut, Fig. 9).

*Locality.*—Off the south-west coast of Patagonia. One specimen.