

the existence of Norman's genus when, in 1875, he founded his genus *Bursalina* for a species which appears to be identical with *Quasillina brevis*; he does not venture upon a generic diagnosis, and, unfortunately, gives no spicular measurements.



FIG. 10.—*Quasillina brevis*, attached to a stone, showing the osculum, o. Nat. size.

Vosmaer¹ has given a discussion of the genus and species, and has also given some description of the minute anatomy. His specimens seem to have been in much better condition than the Challenger ones. There can be no doubt that the body is not hollow in life, but the soft internal tissues generally shrink up and disappear, or liquefy and run off, after the death of the animal, thus giving to the sponge its characteristically hollow form.

The common existence of a single osculum at the summit of the sponge (*vide* woodcut, Fig. 10, o), a point of considerable interest, is demonstrated by the Challenger specimens. (Vosmaer states that he "never saw an opening on the top larger than those where the sea-water enters," but there can be no doubt that in life there is always an osculum at the summit of the body.)

Quasillina brevis, Bowerbank, sp.

1861. *Euplectella brevis*, Bowerbank, List Brit. Marine Invert. Fauna (Brit. Assoc.), p. 71.
 1864. †*Polymastia robusta*, Bowerbank, Mon. Brit. Spong., vol. i. pp. 178, 285, pl. xxix. fig. 358.²
 1866. *Polymastia brevis*, Bowerbank, Mon. Brit. Spong., vol. ii. p. 64 (see also vol. iii. p. 25, pl. xi. figs. 1-9 and vol. iv. p. 31).
 1869. *Quasillina brevis*, Norman, Last Rept. Dredg. Shetland Isles (Brit. Assoc. Rep. for 1868), p. 329.
 1875. *Bursalina muta*, Schmidt, Jahresb. d. Comm. wiss. Untersuch. d. deutsch. Meere, Jahrg. ii., iii. p. 116.

The Challenger obtained fourteen specimens of this very remarkable sponge, nearly all attached to pebbles by a stem or peduncle, and all from Station 49. Many of the specimens have a single small osculum at the summit (*vide* woodcut, Fig. 10, o); all appear to be hollow, containing in the large internal cavity more or less of a yellow amorphous substance caked on to the body-walls. The spicules are, as usual, large and small styli, the former measuring about 1.1 by 0.02 mm. and the latter about 0.28 by 0.01 mm.; they agree very fairly with those of Bowerbank's species, as shown by his preparations in the British Museum.

It is doubtful whether the sponge described and figured by Schmidt³ from the Gulf

¹ Sponges of the "Willem Barents" Expedition, 1880 and 1881, p. 20.

² There has evidently been some mistake here, we give this synonym because fig. 358, pl. xxix. vol. i. of Bowerbank's Mon. Brit. Spong. is described in the first volume (pp. 178, 285) as *Polymastia robusta*, but is referred to in the third (p. 25) and fourth (p. 31) volumes as *Polymastia brevis*.

³ Spong. Meerb. von Mexico, p. 79, pl. x. fig. 4.