

In this species, again, the form of the "chess-man" spicule is, as usual, the distinguishing feature. The figures will show that it is really distinct from the corresponding spicules in *Latrunculia apicalis* and *Latrunculia brevis*, although, as we have already had occasion to mention, there is a slight variety of the latter which seems to form a connecting link between the two; the spicule in *Latrunculia bocagei* is larger and narrower than in *Latrunculia brevis*, and the arrangement and relative sizes of the whorls different. *Latrunculia cratera*, Bocage, the original type of the genus, comes near to our species in this respect, but in that species the whorls are much more minutely and evenly dentate all the way round the rim, and the uppermost one is much smaller than the others. According to Bocage's figures, also, the stylote spicule in *Latrunculia cratera* is only 0.18 mm. long; but here we feel strongly inclined to think that there has been some error, for we have found that the constancy in size of the stylote spicule is a remarkable feature of the genus; and a preparation in the British Museum, identified by Schmidt with *Latrunculia bocagei*, while agreeing with the latter as regards the form of the "chess-man" spicule, has the stylus about 0.5 mm. long.

As regards external form it will be seen that *Latrunculia bocagei* is almost indistinguishable from the Kerguelen specimen of *Latrunculia apicalis*, and correspondingly different from *Latrunculia brevis*; but in this case we are not inclined to set much value on external form as a specific character, for we have already seen that the specimens of *Latrunculia apicalis* from Kerguelen and from Station 320 respectively, differ in external appearance; indeed, to judge from the Challenger series of specimens of the genus, it would seem that external appearance depends on the locality and that all the species from the same locality tend to have a similar external form.

*Locality*.—Kerguelen; depth, 10 to 70 fathoms. Two specimens.

*Latrunculia* (?) *acerata*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXIX. figs. 3, 3a, 3b).

1886. *Latrunculia* (?) *acerata*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 492.

Sponge massive, amorphous, spreading. There is only one specimen in the collection, and that in a very bad state of preservation. It forms a flattened, shapeless mass about 50 mm. long by 38 mm. broad and 13 mm. thick. *Colour* in spirit dirty brown. *Texture* rather firm and compact. *Surface* very uneven, irregularly grooved; at present carrying a considerable amount of foreign matter. *Dermal membrane* distinct, strong, supported by very numerous spicules; in parts peeling off. *Oscula* (?). *Pores* scattered through the dermal membrane (a fragment of the dermal membrane, which was boiled in nitric acid for the sake of separating the spicules, appeared at the end of the process uninjured, and showed the pores very distinctly).