

Skeleton.—(a) *Dermal*; varying much in its degree of development at different parts of the surface. Typically a more or less closely matted, irregular feltwork of slender strongylote spicules, much smaller than the spicules of the main skeleton. (b) *Main*; also varying much in its degree of compactness; a more or less definite reticulation of large spicules, with fibres three or four spicules broad, distinct in parts; sometimes primary fibres, running towards the surface, can be distinguished from the remainder.

Spicules.—(a) *Megasclera*; (1) long, smooth, more or less curved oxea (Pl. XXIX. fig. 3), very variable at the ends, sometimes gradually and sharply pointed, sometimes blunted at each end; ends often rather irregular; size about 0.9 by 0.025 mm., forming the main skeleton. (2) Smooth, rather slender, very slightly curved strongyla (Pl. XXIX. fig. 3a), rounded off at each end, measuring about 0.48 by 0.012 mm., occurring chiefly in the dermal skeleton. (b) *Microsclera*; very small, slender discastra (Pl. XXIX. fig. 3b) resembling the typical "chess-man" spicules of *Latrunculia*, but not nearly so well developed. Consisting each of a slender shaft, straight or slightly crooked, sometimes rather expanded at the base, not distinctly spined but (commonly at any rate) with a roughened appearance; bearing two saucer-like whorls, a smaller one close to the base and a larger one some distance above it. There are never any indications of more whorls. The smaller one is slightly concave upwards and the larger slightly concave downwards. The margin of each whorl is normally slightly notched all round. The slender shaft is produced for some distance beyond the upper whorl, but instead of tapering off to a point it ends abruptly and is often of the same thickness along its entire course. Length of spicule about 0.037 mm. Diameter of larger whorl about 0.0125 mm. These spicules are abundantly scattered through the dermal membrane and are also found occasionally in the subjacent parts.

It is extremely unfortunate that the single specimen of this very interesting and important species should be in such poor condition, and also that the locality should be uncertain. The label on the bottle bears the inscription "No. 135? Date. Oct. 1873.

Lat. *Long.* *Depth, 60 fm's.*"

The species is at once distinguished from any of the three preceding by its spiculation (oxea instead of styli), and by the absence of mammiform processes on the surface. Indeed, as we have already pointed out, it is very doubtful whether it even belongs to the same genus. It is distinguished from Mr. Carter's two species, *Latrunculia corticata*¹ and *Latrunculia purpurea*,¹ which also have oxeote megasclera, by the form of the discaster, which in our species approaches that of a typical *Latrunculia* much more nearly than in either of Mr. Carter's. This forms an argument for including all in the same genus, but it is a very slight one when compared with the arguments against this view. As, however, we have only a single specimen we leave it where it is for the present.

¹ *Loc. cit. supra.*