

report¹ on the Rev. Dr. Norman's Norwegian Sponges. It differs in the characters of its spicules; the sigmaspires are considerably larger (as 5:3), and the anatriænes and protriænes differ from those of *Craniella cranium* both in form and size, the cladi of the anatriænes make a larger angle with the rhabdome, and the cladi of the protriænes are both thicker and more widely divergent. The cortex is 0.4 mm. thick. Oscar Schmidt has described two sponges, one from Iceland and the other from Florida, both as the species *Craniella cranium*. From an examination of the spicules mounted from these, and presented by Dr. Schmidt to the British Museum, I am led to doubt whether either of them is rightly assigned. The one from Iceland does not appear even to belong to the genus, and is probably a *Tetilla*. Its spicules include an oxea, 3.55 mm. long, two kinds of protriænes, one with stout equal cladi, and the other with one cladus longer than the other two; the rhabdome of this is 1.67 mm. long, the longer cladus 0.106 and the two shorter cladi 0.035 mm. long. The anatriænes are broken, so that their length cannot be ascertained; the diameter of the rhabdome is 0.011 mm., the cladi measure 0.101 by 0.009 mm., and the chord is 0.07 mm.; the sigmaspire is 0.019 mm. long.

The spicules of the specimen from Florida, also named *Craniella cranium*, are very different from those of the preceding, and probably come from a species of *Craniella* (probably *Craniella carteri*). The large oxea measures 4.26 by 0.044 mm., the sigmaspire 0.014 mm.

Craniella schmidtii (?).

There are two other small specimens (4 to 5 mm. in diameter) in the collection, which, so far as regards their spicules are almost identical with *Craniella schmidtii*. They differ, however, from this species and from the genus in the structure of the cortex, which is not differentiated into an outer and an inner layer as in *Craniella*, but consists of a single thick fibrous layer without cortical spicules. Apart from the spicules it somewhat resembles the cortex of *Craniella cranium*, as represented in Bowerbank's figures. In one of the specimens, however, it assumes over a small area the usual structure, though still remaining without cortical spicules. In the other no trace of the *Craniella* structure exists; it is, however, in such an unusual state, being crowded with large embryos, that I hesitate to give their true taxonomical value to the differences it presents.

The embryos are in different stages of development, and many of them so large, that escape, unless by perforation of the cortex, seems impossible; one embryo indeed occupies a cavity which extends into the cortex, and is only separated from the exterior by a thin membrane. Many of the embryos are also crowded with spicules, and thus it may be possible that the supply of silica obtained by the mother-sponge has been exhausted by the embryos in forming their skeleton, and thus fresh spicules to replace those

¹ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. ix. p. 149, 1882.