

II. Microsclere. 2. *Microxea*, rod-like, covered with numerous small spines, 0·0127 mm. in length.

*Habitat.*—Gulf of Manaar.

Genus 7. *Nethea*,<sup>1</sup> n. gen.

Theneidæ, resembling *Pæcillastra* in the characters of the spicules, but distinguished by peculiar dichotriænes, with scarcely developed rhabdomes.

*Nethea nana* (Carter).

*Tisiphonia nana*, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. vi. p. 138, pl. vii. fig. 43, 1880.

*Sponge.*—Lamelliform, thin, incrusting or burrowing; surface even.

*Spicules.*—I. Megascleres. 1. *Oxea*, fusiform, curved, 0·38 by 0·014 mm. 2. *Dichotriæne*, rhabdome reduced, represented only by a short, conical, blunt process, 0·085 by 0·042 mm.; chord of cladome 0·7 mm.

II. Microscleres. 3. *Microxea*, fusiform centrotylote, 0·056 mm. long. 4. ? *Spiraster* (a stellate, with a tendency to assume a spinispirulate form, Carter), 0·0125 mm. long.

*Colour.*—White.

*Habitat.*—Gulf of Manaar.

Genus 8. *Placinastrella*, F. E. Schulze.

The megascleres are calthrops, triods and oxeas; the calthrops when occurring near the surface is orientated like a triæne, which it then much resembles. The microscleres are of two orders of size, a larger consisting of tri- and di-actinose asters, and a smaller, chiefly confined to the ectosome, and consisting of tetra-, tri- and di-actinose asters.

*Placinastrella copiosa*, F. E. Schulze.

*Placinastrella copiosa*, F. E. Schulze, Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool., Bd. xxxv. pp. 434, 449, 1880.

*Sponge.*—Small, a segment of a sphere seated on a flat base, bearing near the summit a single oscular tube. Ectosome excavated by subdermal cavities, and traversed by numerous minute asters and microxeas, the latter near the surface being directed at right angles to it, and thus minutely hispidating it.

*Spicules.*—I. Megascleres. 1. *Calthrops* with four equal actines in the choanosome, near the surface, triæne-like, the longest actine 0·142 mm. long. 2. This passes into triods and oxeas.

<sup>1</sup> The name *Nethea* is an anagram of *Thenea*, itself a fortuitous combination of letters.