

considerable width, from 3 to 4 mm., and expanding beneath the cortex, open by oscules much smaller than themselves, from 1 to 2 mm. in diameter.

Stryphnus unguiculus, Sollas (Pl. XV. figs. 33–39).

Stryphnus unguiculus, Sollas, Prelim. Account, Sci. Proc. Roy. Dubl. Soc., vol. v. p. 193, 1886.

Sponge.—Compound, massive, spreading horizontally into irregular lobes, and rising into mound-like eminences; base torn, but apparently free; oscules evident in groups at the ends of the lobes or on the summits of the mounds; excurrent canals large, running longitudinally through the lobes, expanding beneath the oscules, and opening into them by chones, of which there are several to each canal. Pores generally distributed.

Spicules.—I. Megascleres. 1. *Somal oxea* (Pl. XV. fig. 33), fusiform, usually curved, variously but usually obtusely pointed, 2·68 by 0·095 mm.

2. *Ectosomal oxea*, hispidating the surface, fusiform, much attenuated towards the ends as though to terminate in a sharp point, but usually rounded off, 5·712 by 0·087 mm.

3. *Dichotriæne* (Pl. XV. figs. 34, 35), rhabdome conical, obtusely pointed or rounded off at the end; protocladi projecting only slightly forwards; deuterocladi directed backwards, and after diverging from each other in the usual manner approximating so as to become parallel for the latter half of their course. Rhabdome 0·508 by 0·0316 mm., protocladi 0·0276 mm., deuterocladi 0·0395 mm. long, chord of deuterocladi 0·0237 mm.

II. Microscleres. 4. *Somal amphiaster*, typical form as in *Stryphnus niger*; but varieties are, if possible, more numerous.

5. *Choanosomal oxyaster*, a small centrum, and sharp, conical, smooth or roughened actines, which, though usually numerous, are frequently reduced to six, five, four, three, two, or even one in number. A single actine 0·0197 mm. long.

Colour.—Deep brown externally, dark grey within.

Habitat.—Port Elizabeth, South Africa (according to the dealer from whom it was purchased).

Remarks.—This species is very similar to *Stryphnus niger*; it is distinguished by the claw-like cladi of the dichotriæne.

Subfamily 4. RHABDASTERINA.

Genus 15. *Ecionema*, Bowerbank.

Rhabdastrose Stellettidæ in which the ectosome does not form a cortex, with two forms of microscleres, one of them being a microrabd, derived either from an anthaster or a chiaster by reduction in the number of the actines to two.