

word *Stellettinopsis* is an odious combination of Greek and bad Latin, and hybrid names such as this are expressly condemned by the Stricklandian rules. I therefore propose a fresh definition and a new name for the type, and a fresh type and a new name for the definition.

Genus (?).

*Stelletta pathologica*, O. Schmidt.

*Stelletta pathologica*, O. Schmidt, Spong. Küste v. Algier, p. 19, pl. iii. figs. 3, 4, 1868.

*Sponge*.—Irregular knoll-like masses with a rough surface, cortex 0.5 mm. in thickness, not differentiated into two layers, apparently collenchymatous.

*Spicules*.—I. Megascleres. 1. *Oxea*, long, slender, very attenuately pointed, collected in loose fibre-like bundles, which are directed at right angles to the cortex, 2.38 by 0.012 mm. 2. *Mesotriænes* (*vide* pl. iii. fig. 3a, *loc. cit.*), rhabdal actines conical, oxeate, 0.875 mm. by 0.0434 mm., cladi conical, oxeate, variously inclined to the axis of the rhabdome, subject to numerous irregularities in form, number, and position, frequently reduced to two or one in number, and about 0.238 mm. in length.

II. Microscleres. 3. *Oxyaster*, actines conical, oxeate, 0.08 mm. in length, variable in number and in other respects, sometimes reduced to microcalthrops, sometimes to microxea, frequently very irregular in form, often reproducing the forms of the mesotriæne. 4. *Spheraster*, actines conical, strongylate, often rough or tubercular, confluent with the centrum, total diameter 0.0195 mm., numerous.

*Habitat*.—Coast of Algiers.

*Remarks*.—I owe to the kindness of Professor Perrier a fragment of this interesting sponge, but it reached me too late for insertion in its proper place, if, indeed, this, in the present state of our knowledge, can be determined; the cortex is not fibrous and resembles that of *Aurora*; pores or oscules I have not seen; and from the character of the cortex I should not expect to find chones; the mesotriæne is scattered through the whole sponge, with a general tendency to lie parallel to the coarse loose bundles of oxeas; the microscleres are generally distributed throughout the whole sponge.

It appears to me that the mesotriæne may be regarded as a modified orthotriæne, which has acquired the habit of growing to maturity within the choanosome, and thus presenting among the Stellettidæ an analogue to *Pacillastra* among the Theneidæ. The only other sponge in which mesotriænes are characteristically present is *Triptolemus*, but in this the microscleres are of different character.

The characters of the chamber system and of the choanosomal mesoderm are not known, and till our knowledge of the sponge is more extensive I regard its precise position as uncertain.