

Spicules.—I. Megasclere. 1. *Oxea*, fusiform, curved, 1.32 by 0.028 mm.

II. Microscleres. 2. *Oxyaster*, very variable, centrum small, sometimes absent, actines conical, minutely spined, from one to twelve in number; size variable, smaller as the actines are more numerous, maximum diameter 0.06 mm.

3. *Sanidasters*, exceedingly variable, the more regular and usually smaller forms presenting a straight axis subdivided into two or more spines at the end, and bearing two whorls of spines situated about one-third the length of the axis from each end; the less regular present the same grotesque appearance as characterises the similar spicule in *Stryphnus unguiculus*; length 0.017 mm.

Colour.—Tawny-brown. Size, 63 mm. in length by 25 mm. in height.

Habitat.—Freemantle, Australia.

Remarks.—The spicules of this species remind one of those of *Stryphnus*; and in this genus there are species in which the triæne is both rare and small relatively to the oxea. If *Asteropus* is a reduced Stellettid it is to *Stryphnus* that we must look for its nearest alliance. In a type slide of the species kindly furnished me by Mr. Carter, I observed more than one oxea which presented a sudden flexure near the end, so as to present a form very similar to the reduced triænes of some Tetillid species (*Chrotella macellata*). In such promonænes the axial fibre stops short, and is slightly enlarged at the point of flexure, and then recommences as a distinct branch to supply what is practically a single cladus.

Asteropus (?) *annulatus* (O. Schmidt).

Stellettinopsis annulata, O. Sch., Spong. Mexico, p. 75, pl. ix. fig. 6, 1880.

Sponge.—Incrusting.

Spicules.—I. Megasclere. 1. *Oxea*, long and slender.

II. Microscleres. 2. *Microoxea* (?), short, stout. 3. *Spiraster* (?). 4. *Oxyaster*, centrum absent; actines transversely ridged and tubercled.

Habitat.—Gulf of Mexico, on *Farrea*.

Remarks.—I have not seen specimens of this sponge. Its generic position is doubtful. If the spiraster so called should prove to be a sanidaster, it would naturally lead to the inclusion of the sponge in the genus to which it is here assigned.

Genus *Coppatias*,¹ n. gen.

Epipolasidæ in which but one form of aster, and that a euaster, is present. Canal system unknown.

¹ κοππατίας, branded with the letter koppa (ϙ). The circle is fancifully supposed to represent the aster, the stroke the rhabdus, of this group of sponges.