

Genus 7. *Isops*, Sollas.

Oscules and pores similar, both the simple apertures of similar chones.

*Isops pachydermata*, Sollas.

*Isops pachydermata*, Sollas, Prelim. Account, Sci. Proc. Roy. Dubl. Soc., vol. v. p. 198, 1886.

*Sponge*.—An irregular rounded mass; attached. Surface smooth, raised at intervals of about 7 mm. into small rounded bosses or tubercles, each perforated centrally by a single aperture, the distal mouth of a chone. Oscules and pores similar, each the simple mouth of a chone. Cortex thick, constituted almost entirely by the sterrastral layer; beneath the epithelium a layer of spherasters.

*Spicules*.—I. Megascleres. 1. *Oxea*, fusiform, straight or more usually curved, bluntly pointed or strongylate; 1.96 by 0.04 mm.

2. *Orthotriane*, rhabdome conical, strongylate; cladi, conical, straight, projecting outwards and slightly forwards. Rhabdome 1.07 by 0.0387 mm., cladi 0.27 mm. long.

II. Microscleres. 3. *Sterraster*, more or less ellipsoidal, compressed, actines bearing from four to six small recurved spines; 0.24 by 0.187 mm. in diameter.

4. *Somal spheraster*, minute, a comparatively large centrum, bearing numerous short, cylindrical, abruptly truncate actines. Centrum 0.008 mm. in diameter, actines about 0.003 mm. in length, total diameter 0.014 mm.

5. *Chocnosomal oxyaster*; no differentiated centrum, actines long, slender, conical, sharply pointed, few in number, varying from eight to two, those with only two actines being frequently microxeas; a single actine of a triod form 0.064 mm. in length.

6. *Subcortical oxeate spheraster*; this form is intermediate between the two preceding; centrum well developed, actines numerous, sharply pointed, conical, rarely faintly and minutely spined near the extremities, a single actine 0.01 mm. in length; total diameter, 0.035 mm.

*Colour*.—Yellowish-white.

*Habitat*.—Station 56, off Bermuda, May 29, 1873; lat. 32° 8' 45" N., long. 64° 59' 35" W.; depth, 1075 fathoms; bottom, coral mud; bottom temperature, 38°.2. Dredged.

*Remarks*.—A single imperfect specimen of this sponge was dredged; it has grown over the hard skeleton of a species of *Isis*, the polyps of which are still present at one end; a part of the polypary has extended itself over the surface of the sponge. In the characters of its spicules the sponge resembles *Geodia megastrella*, Carter, and in the structure of the cortex it brings to mind *Cydonium hirsutus*, Sollas. It is readily distinguished from both these species by the characters of the chones, which are those of an *Isops*.

The cortex is 1.68 mm. in thickness, it consists almost entirely of the sterrastral layer.