

Genus 1. *Thrombus*,¹ n. gen.

With the characters of the family.

Thrombus challengeri, Sollas (Pl. VIII. figs. 24–39).

Thrombus challengeri, Sollas, Prelim. Account, Sci. Proc. Roy. Dubl. Soc., vol. v. p. 179, 1886.

? *Corticium kittoni*, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. xiv. p. 24, 1874.

Sponge (Pl. VIII. fig. 24).—An amorphous fleshy mass, incrusting a species of *Rhizochalina*, and containing, embedded in its substance, numerous little spiral shells. Oscules and pores not seen. Surface irregular, the embedded shells everywhere protruding from it, smooth between the shells; viewed with a lens finely granulated by the projection of the cladi of the underlying trichotriænes.

Spicules.—The only spicules present are triænes, of which there are several varieties, all modifications of one prevailing form.

1. *Plagiotriæne* (Pl. VIII. figs. 25, 26), rhabdome straight, almost cylindrical, esactine tapering but slightly to a strongylate termination; eactine dividing into three simple cladi, which are strongylate and but slightly tapering, curved somewhat sigmately, and directed at first more forwards than outwards, and finally more outwards than forwards. The spicule is minutely spined all over, except near the origin of the actines and cladi; the spines are erect, conical, sharply pointed, and spreading at the base tent-like. Rhabdome 0·1 by 0·0118 mm., cladi 0·055 by 0·0118 mm.; one or two cladi of this spicule are occasionally absent (Pl. VIII. fig. 29).

2. *Dichotriæne* (Pl. VIII. figs. 27, 28), one, two, or all three cladi may bifurcate; the dichotriænes are usually smaller than the plagiotriænes. Rhabdome 0·075 by 0·0118 mm., protocladi 0·0197, deuterocladi 0·0158 mm. long.

3. *Trichotriæne* (Pl. VIII. fig. 30), one, two, or all three cladi may be trifurcate, the middle deuterocladus continuing the direction of the protocladus. When only one or two of the cladi are trifurcate, the remainder may be either simple or bifurcate, or one simple and the other bifurcate. Sometimes one or two cladi are suppressed (Pl. VIII. fig. 31). Rhabdome 0·055 mm. in length, the proto- and middle deuterocladus together 0·0355 mm. in length, the deuterocladi 0·0158 mm.

The spicules are scattered isolately and without order in the choanosome; in the ectosome, however, they are directed with the rhabdome pointing away from the surface at right angles to it, and the cladi extending tangentially beneath it. The cladome is thus, as is the case with all true triænes, distally situated with respect to the actinal centre. Frequently the cladome may be seen projecting beyond the outer surface of the sponge, as though the spicule were in process of being extruded.

Colour.—A somewhat dark slate-grey.

¹ θρόμβος, ó, a lump or clot.