

cladus 0·045 mm., tetracladus 0·02 mm.; maximum diameter of the calthrope, measured from the extremities of the most remote rays, 0·324 mm.

Habitat.—Seychelle Islands, in deep water.

Remarks.—The description of the calthrope is taken from a slide kindly presented me by Mr. Carter, who found it associated with débris at the root of a specimen of *Euplectella cucumer* from the Seychelles. The spicule is unique in form, and brings to mind the tetracladine desmas of the Lithistida. The resemblance extends into details, the actinomes being thickened ridge-like on their confluent sides, so as to produce a triangular depression at each point of union of the actinomes taken in threes. A precisely similar character will be found described in *Theonella swinhoei*, pp. 285, 290.

The chief distinction between this spicule and a Lithistid desma is to be found in the axial fibre, which in the spicule extends throughout the cladi up to the extremity of the tetracladus, while in the Lithistid desma it never extends past the protocladus; another probably equally important difference is presented by the cladi, which are more or less cylindrical or conical according to their position, but never expanded into laminae, and rigidly straight, never crooked. The difference in size is also worthy of remark.

[*Corticium parasiticum*, Carter.

Corticium parasiticum, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. xviii. p. 229, pl. xvi. fig. 52, 1876.

This species evidently belongs to the Monaxonida.

Family III. THROMBIDÆ.

Thrombus abyssi (Carter.)

Corticium abyssi, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. xii. pp. 18–22, pl. i. figs. 1–9, 15, 1873.

Sponge.—Reptant, amorphous; surface smooth, slippery; oscules numerous, small, of different sizes, congregated now and then irregularly; pores simple, not in sieves, uniformly scattered; mesoderm similar to that of *Thrombus challengerii*.

Spicules.—1. *Trichotriæne*, rhabdome straight, ornamented with conical erect spines, except between the actinal and cladal centres; esactine conical, oxeate; eactine cylindrical, strongylate; cladome arising from the middle of the eactine, cladi trichotomate, protocladi smooth, deuterocladi spined like the rhabdome. Rhabdome 0·0583 mm. long, chord of the cladome 0·0542 mm.

2. *Amphiaster*, axis straight, slender, bearing four recurved spines at each end; 0·005 mm. long.