

character: they are largest and most remote in the type and in the specimen from Porto Praya, in both these they measure about 0.45 to 0.5 mm. in diameter; in the other specimen they are smaller, varying from 0.16 to 0.32 in diameter, and in their distances from one another they vary still more widely. In the specimen from Station 33 from four to six can be seen at one time in the field of the microscope, in that from Station 56 as many as nineteen or twenty, and in that from Amboina about twelve. The size of the main excurrent canals and pores varies in correspondence with that of the oscules.

The desmas are similarly variable, those in the specimen from Amboina are thicker, and more richly tubercled than in any of the others, including the type. These differences are so marked, that it has been a question of much perplexity as to how far they should be recognised in our nomenclature; since, however, in each case we have only individual specimens to deal with, and since it would be impossible to discriminate them without giving a specific name to each individual, I have thought it most convenient to group them together as a single species, adding here a summary of their differences.

*Azorica pfeifferæ*, Carter. Type, and specimen from Porto Praya. Sponge-wall comparatively thick, oscules large, marginate, desmas comparatively slender and smooth.

*Azorica pfeifferæ tenui-laminaris*. Specimen from Station 56 and Bahia. Sponge-wall comparatively thin, oscules small, closely approximated, desmas comparatively slender and smooth.

*Azorica pfeifferæ tenui-laminaris, osculis disjunctis*. Specimen from Station 33. Sponge-wall comparatively thin, oscules small, marginate, comparatively remote, desmas comparatively slender and smooth.

*Azorica pfeifferæ intermedia*. Specimen from Amboina. Sponge-wall intermediate in thickness between *Azorica pfeifferæ*, type, and *Azorica tenui-laminaris*; oscules small, closely approximated, desmas comparatively thick and highly tuberculated.

The slight differences between the specimens do not appear to be correlated with differences of habitat, unless in the case of the specimen from Amboina; the stouter form of desma in this being possibly connected with its occurrence in comparatively shallow water (15 to 25 fathoms).

*Azorica marginata*, n. sp. (Pl. XXXV. figs. 14-22).

*Sponge*.—Small, ear-shaped, attached, inclined so that the oscular surface is downwards, the poriferous face upwards. Margins rounded, oscules simple, small, with circular, raised margins, 0.475 mm. in diameter. Pores simple, small.

*Spicules*.—I. Megascleres. 1. *Desma* (Pl. XXXV. figs. 14-21), somewhat short and thick, densely tuberculated, tubercles bearing bifid spines. Total length of a curved form 0.238 mm., of an elongated straight form 0.4 mm., a single branch of a quadriradiate