

## Family II. ANOMOCLADIDÆ, Zittel.

Anoplia in which the desma is acrepidal, a variable number of smooth, cylindrical cladi radiate from a thickened centrum; zygois occurs between the expanded ends of the cladi of one desma and the centrum of another.

*Vetulina stalactites*, O. Schmidt.

*Vetulina stalactites*, O. Schmidt, Spong. Meerb. Mexico, p. 19, pl. i. fig. 1; pl. ii. fig. 9, 1879.

„ „ Sollas, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xv. p. 236; Proc. Roy. Irish Acad., ser. 2, vol. iv. p. 486, 1885.

*Sponge*.—A sinuous folded plate, more or less cup-like, attached, surface of both sides even, meeting a flat upper margin at right angles; outer surface marked by concentric lines of growth; pores and oscules both small, the latter generally distributed on the inner face, the former over the outer. Wall from 5 to 20 mm. in thickness; consistence of stony hardness.

*Spicules*.—I. Megascleres. 1. *Desma*, cylindrical cladi seldom bifurcating, varying from two to eight in number, smooth, or bearing rounded or irregular tubercles, terminating in expanded syzygial ends, 0·1 to 0·15 by 0·012 to 0·02 mm.; centrum massive, 0·05 to 0·07 mm. in diameter; when the cladi are less than six in number, produced into numerous branching twig-like processes from the distal face. 2. *Strongyle*, cylindrical, 0·35 by 0·004 mm.

The desmas are arranged with the akladose face of the centrum turned towards the outer surface of the sponge, and the cladi extended in the opposite direction; they terminate by abutting on the akladose face of the centra of the next succeeding layer, and thus form a series of groin-like arches.

*Habitat*.—Barbados; depth, 100 fathoms (O. Schmidt). Probably also from shallow water, since a specimen exists in the Bristol Museum that was obtained long before the dredge was generally used for collecting, certainly before it was used in deep water.