

*Tethya* (?) *stellata*, O. Schmidt.

*Cometella stellata*, O. Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 49, pl. iv. fig. 10, 1870.

*Tethya cometes*, O. Schmidt, Spong. Meerb. Mexico, p. 78, 1880.

*Sponge*.—A spherical body supported by a long slender stalk, surface raised into numerous rounded papillæ, so that the whole sponge resembles a stalked mulberry.

*Spicules*.—I. Megasclere. 1. *Strongyle*, sometimes fusiform, sometimes cylindrical.

II. Microscleres. 2. *Somal spheraster*, as in *Tethya lyncurium*. 3. *Radical spheraster*, smaller, and distinguished by longer, often tuberculate actines.

*Habitat*.—Cuba; depth, 317 to 344 fathoms; also lat. 24° 8' N., long. 82° 51' W., and lat. 23° 13' N., long. 89° 16' W.; 84 to 329 fathoms.

*Tethya maza*, Selenka.

*Tethya maza*, Selenka, Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool., Bd. xxxiii. p. 472, pl. xxviii., 1879.

*Sponge*.—Spherical, attached; surface conulose, conules gemmiferous. Pores in sieves leading into extensive intercortical cavities. Oscule single, situated at the summit. Cortex differentiated into an outer and inner layer.

*Spicules*.—I. Megasclere. 1. *Strongyloxea*, of the usual form in the genus, 1.68 by 0.032 mm.

II. Microscleres. 2. *Cortical spheraster*, of the usual form, but characterised by very variable actines, sometimes conical and oxeate; they are more frequently conical and strongylate, and then usually bear one or more spines, or they may dichotomise.

3. *Somal chiaster*, as in *Tethya seychellensis*, E. P. W., 0.0118 mm. in diameter.

4. *Choanosomal chiaster*, of excessively variable form; actines usually few, six or seven in number, slender, cylindrical, roughened rather than distinctly spined; very rarely dichotomose; centrum usually absent; total diameter 0.0237 mm.

*Colour*.—Orange-yellow when alive, in spirits greyish-white.

*Habitat*.—Bay of Rio Janeiro, between tides (Selenka).

*Remarks*.—Through the kindness of my colleague, Dr. E. P. Wright, I have been able to examine typical specimens of this sponge. Its distinction from *Tethya seychellensis*, E. P. W., rests entirely on the difference in form of the choanosomal aster.

Budding, according to Selenka, takes place during the winter season, but not continuously; the buds originate in the cortex, and in such numbers as to almost obliterate the intercortical cavities. They then glide out along one of the spicular fascicles of the conules, and remain attached till their development is nearly complete, when they drop off. The oscule and subcortical cavities are not developed till after complete separation from the parent.