

The modifications in the form of the rhabdus most useful for classificatory purposes are those which affect its termination. We therefore distinguish the different forms of this spicule by the character of its ends, as follows:—

(a) Forms of rhabdus with similar terminations.—

1. *Oxea* (ὀξύς, εἶα, sharp, pointed) (Fig. X., α). When the rhabdus is sharply pointed at each end it is a *rhabdus amphioxea*;<sup>1</sup> in nearly all cases in which a spicule is similarly terminated at both ends we shall dispense with the prefix “amphi-” leaving it to be understood, and since the *rhabdus oxea* is one of the most commonly occurring

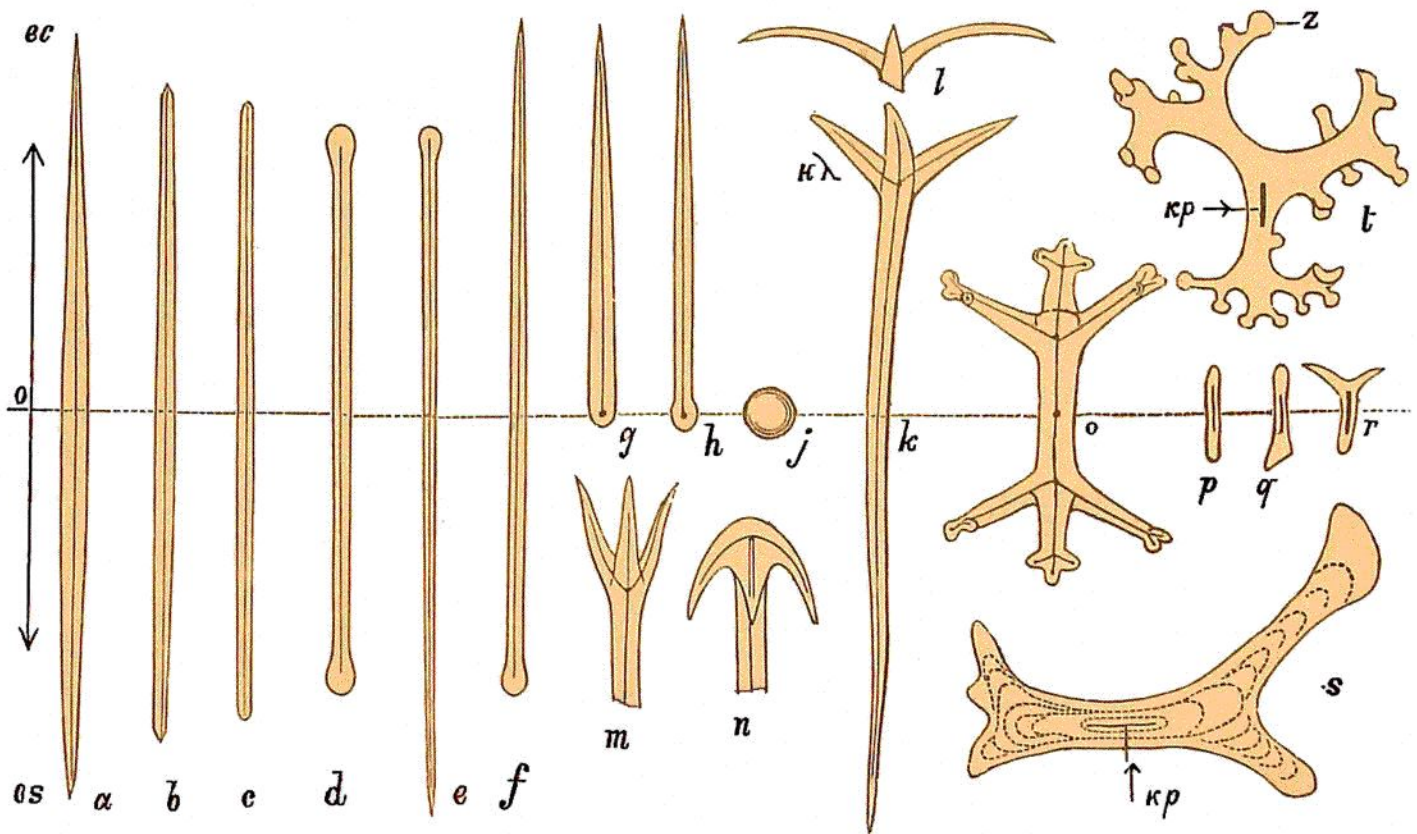


FIG. X.—Modifications of the Rhabdus. α, *Oxea*; β, *tornote*; γ, *strongyle*; δ, *tylote*; ε, *oxytylote*; ζ, *tylotoxea*; η, *style*; θ, *tylostyle*; ι, *sphere*; κ, *plagiatriane*; λ, *orthotriane*; μ, *protriane*; ν, *anatriane*; ο, *amphitriane*; π, *crepidial rhabdus or rhabdorepis of a Lithistid desma*; ρ, the same, more advanced in growth; ς, ditto; σ, ditto, more enlarged; τ, the fully developed *desma*. The dotted line marked ο on the left of the diagram passes through the origin of the spicules; the arrows directed from it indicate the direction of growth of the actines, ες, *ecactine*, εσ, *esactine*; in fig. κ the *cladome* is indicated by the letters κλ; in figs. σ and τ the *crepis* by κρ, and in fig. τ, σ indicates a *syzygial tubercle*.

spicules we shall omit the substantive “rhabdus” and use the adjective “*oxea*” in a substantive sense. When the actines of other spicules than rhabduses are sharply pointed we shall express the fact by the adjective “*oxeate*.” The term in Bowerbank’s nomenclature corresponding to *oxea* is “*acerate*.”

2. *Tornote* (τόρνος, ὄ, a pair of compasses or turner’s chisel. The adjective “*tornotus*” is derived from this) (Fig. X., β). When the rhabdus is very abruptly pointed at

<sup>1</sup> The feminine termination is used in agreement with rhabdus.