

Genus 4. *Sphinctrella*, O. Schmidt.

Sphinctrella, O. Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 65, 1870.

Vulcanella, Sollas, Sci. Proc. Roy. Dubl. Soc., N.S., vol. v. p. 186, 1886.

Theneidæ of no regular form, distinguished by one or more large oscules, which are fringed at the margin by long oxeas, and lead into cloacas with fenestrated walls. Special poriferous recesses are absent. The spicules and skeleton are similar to those of *Pæcillastra*.

Type—*Sphinctrella horrida*, O. Schmidt.

The Sponge on which I founded the genus *Vulcanella* is so different in general form and outward appearance from *Sphinctrella horrida*, and Schmidt's descriptions are so incomplete, that it was not till I had an opportunity of examining a fragment of Schmidt's species that I noticed the resemblance; since then I have found in the Challenger collection two other species, which are more like *Sphinctrella horrida* in general character, and there can be little doubt as to the identity of *Vulcanella* with *Sphinctrella*.

Genus 5. *Triptolemus*, n. gen.

Theneidæ of no regular form, usually incrusting. Oscules and pores not known. The megascleres include an oxea and centrotriæne, the microscleres a spiraster and spinose microxea.

Type—*Triptolemus cladosus*, n. sp. (p. 93).

The first discovered species of this genus were assigned by Carter,¹ who described them, first to *Pachastrella*, and subsequently to *Samus*; beyond the characters and arrangement of the spicules, but little is known about them, and so long as the characters of the chamber-system are uncertain, the position of the genus is more or less open to question.

Genus 6. *Stæba*, n. gen. (provisional).

Theneidæ of no regular form; in the only species known burrowing. The megascleres are dichotriænes, the microscleres spinose microxeas.

Type—*Stæba simplex*. (Carter) (p. 102).

This is another of the Sponges assigned by Carter to the genus *Samus*; in that genus as redefined by us it cannot be included, and since there is no other existing genus to which it can be referred, it becomes necessary to institute a new one to receive it.

¹ Carter, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. xviii. p. 410, 1876; Carter, *op. cit.*, ser. 5, vol. vi. p. 60, 1880.