

Verongia hirsuta (?) or *Verongia tenuissima* (?), I yet incline to the belief that they stand in no connexion with the sponge organism.

Colour.—Sandstone yellowish-grey.

Habitat.—Bahia, shallow water.

In addition to the well-marked Spongeliidæ just described, there are in the Challenger collection three specimens probably belonging also to the family in question, but so very badly preserved that there are no soft parts on their skeleton. I believe it advisable to abstain entirely from their detailed description. I think that an undescribed form is of greater profit to science than a form described insufficiently for subsequent recognition. I believe the sponges just mentioned belong to the Spongeliidæ, but the question whether a sponge belongs to this or that family in the Keratosa cannot be decided from the properties of the skeleton alone. Again I cannot describe them only as species; the external shape plays a great part in the specific description, but the exterior of the sponge is influenced by the properties of its soft parts, and these as mentioned before are entirely absent. An entire abstinence from any description seems to me therefore to be the best plan.

Family SPONGIDÆ.

Spongiadæ and *Hirciniadæ*, Gray, 1867.

Bibulida and *Hircinida* (*e.p.*), Carter, 1875.

Spongiadæ (*e.p.*), *Hirciniadæ* (*e.p.*), and *Phyllospongiadæ*, Hyatt, 1877.

Spongidæ and *Hircinidæ*, F. E. Schulze, 1879.

Keratosa with small hemispherical flagellated chambers, communicating by means of numerous pores with inhalent, by means of special canals with exhalent, cavities. Axis of fibres thin; ground-mass in the neighbourhood of the flagellated chambers granulated.

Coscinoderma, Carter.

Spongidæ with skeletal fibres admitting of no distinction into primary and secondary ones.

Coscinoderma confragosum, n. sp.

“Battledore-shaped, covered with a white continuous cribriform incrustation; surface even, with fibres almost uniformly alike in size and colour, viz., very small and fine, very long, scantily branched, curled up together in little whorls, of a deep sponge colour.” In these words Mr. Carter¹ characterises his genus *Coscinoderma*, and together with it his species *lanuginosum*. The species I am about to describe agrees very well with that description, but presents the following differences. When bisected longitudinally the

¹ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5., vol. xii. p. 309, 1883.