

in the form of three elongated stalks connected together at their bases. I do not think that this difference in external appearance can justify the establishment of two varieties; for in the structure of their soft parts (quite identical with that of *Aplysina*), and again in that of the skeleton, the specimens do not differ at all. Indeed the colour of the parenchyma in one case (massive specimen) is rather yellow, in the other greyish, but I am not inclined to ascribe any consequence to this difference. Both the specimens are represented on Pl. IX. I have nothing further to add to this illustration, and as to the properties of their skeleton in general and to those of their skeletal fibres I refer the reader to page 7 of this report.

Colour.—Outer surface greyish, parenchyma yellow and dirty greyish-white, skeletal fibres brownish-yellow and brownish.

Habitat.—Station 177, August 18, 1874, off Api, New Hebrides; depth 60 to 70 fathoms. Off Tahiti; reefs; September 1875.

Verongia, Bowerbank.

Aplysinidæ, the central axis of whose thick-walled skeletal fibres is readily to be distinguished optically from the surrounding horny walls.

Verongia hirsuta (?), Hyatt (Pl. X. figs. 1–3).

Verongia hirsuta, Hyatt, Revision, &c., vol. i. p. 403.

I leave to later investigators the decision of the question whether the form I am going to describe is identical with *Verongia hirsuta*, var. *fistularoides* of Hyatt. His description is very short, and there are no explanatory illustrations; it agrees, however, closely with what I can give of the form in question. I myself indeed should call the meshes of the skeleton regular, but with regard to this difference the utmost caution is advisable. In *Verongia fistularis* (*Spongia fistularis*, Linné) from the Museum of Erlangen, which both Hyatt and myself were able to obtain for the purpose of comparison, and which is placed by Hyatt in his family Dendrospongiadæ, characterised *inter alia* by irregularity of the meshes, I was able to discern meshes of a geometrically regular polygonal character, and again meshes sometimes of irregularly round, sometimes of irregularly oval, shape.

As to the anatomy of the form, I am glad to confirm the supposition of Vosmaer¹ that it does not differ from that of *Aplysina*; the exposition of the canal-system on Pl. X. fig. 7 has been made after a preparation of *Verongia tenuissima*, but it may be applied also to *Verongia hirsuta*, the more so as both the specimens of *Verongia hirsuta* and *Verongia tenuissima*, represented in the collection each only by a single

¹ On *Velinea gracilis*, p. 444.