

Although I am not usually inclined to bestow specific distinction on such an imperfect specimen, it seemed to me justifiable to make an exception in favour of this form, on account of the marked breadth and strength acquired by the larger almost spherical amphidiscs, and also because of other peculiarities among the spicules.

The large supporting spicules of the parenchyma are more or less long diaacts of variable strength, besides which isolated medium-sized, strong oxyhexacts also occur, as also very abundant slimmer medium-sized oxyhexacts, in which the rays are covered with slender spines inserted at right angles (Pl. XXXII. fig. 8). Between these a host of small smooth oxyhexacts with curved rays also occur (Pl. XXXII. fig. 6).

The dermal skeleton contains strongly developed hypodermal oxypentacts with proximal rays of variable length. On the tangential rays are inserted rows of autodermal pentact pinuli, with four short, strongly developed tangential basal rays, beset with short distally directed teeth, while the distal ray, about 0.3 mm. long, has a more bushy appearance, due to somewhat long obliquely inserted spines which are specially well-developed on the median and external portions (Pl. XXXII. fig. 7). Especially striking in the dermal membrane are the very broad, almost spherical, strongly developed amphidiscs (Pl. XXXII. figs. 1, 2), with broadly arched terminal umbels which almost meet in the middle. Each umbel consists of eight to twelve broad, paddle-shaped rays, which exhibit a median ridge projecting inwards and rounded off terminally. They do not pass into a terminal plate at the pole, but end sharply with a projecting margin round a central circular pit (Pl. XXXII. fig. 2). The opposed umbel rays are usually not exactly opposite but alternating (Pl. XXXII. figs. 1, 2).

Besides these, the dermal membrane contains other amphidiscs, with eight slender umbel rays of smaller, and sometimes of much smaller size (Pl. XXXII. figs. 4, 5). The small umbels only occupy a third of the total length of the amphidiscs, or even less in the smallest forms (Pl. XXXII. fig. 5).

On the inner surface of the large internal cavity, in the gastral and canalicular membrane, numerous amphidiscs occur of medium and small size. They exhibit in part the same structure as those last described in the external skin (Pl. XXXII. fig. 4), and in part somewhat larger forms (Pl. XXXII. fig. 3). Those large, almost spherical amphidiscs, which occur so abundantly in the dermal membrane, are here altogether absent, nor have I found any hypogastral pentacts or autogastral pinuli in the gastral or canalicular membrane.

In the lower portion of the body, which forms an annular pad, strongly developed spicules with six to two cylindrical rays occur. Their rounded ends are beset for a variable distance with teeth and spines (Pl. XXXII. figs. 9, 10), which often appear on the rudiments of undeveloped rays (Pl. XXXII. fig. 10).