

Spicules.—Large, straight, or very slightly curved, fusiform oxea (Pl. II. fig. 1), sharply and usually gradually pointed. Size commonly about 0·7 by 0·022 mm., but often much larger, measuring about 1·25 by 0·031 mm. In these larger spicules one end is usually markedly larger than the other, and the points are irregular.

This is a very interesting species, and forms another example of the extraordinary diversity and richness of the sponge-fauna at Station 320. We have called the species "*latrunculioides*," owing to the curious resemblance which it bears in external form to species of the genus *Latrunculia*, of which two were obtained from the same Station.

As we have already had occasion to remark, the most noteworthy character of the species is the arrangement of the pores in definite, raised pore-areas. We at first thought that this feature would prove of generic importance, but concluded finally that it is not so, being apparently only a case of adaptation, which, however, at once separates the species from all others of the genus. The arrangement of the pores is, as usual, closely correlated with the arrangement of the dermal skeleton. The dermal skeleton in this sponge is so closely packed together that there is literally no space left for the pores (*vide* Pl. XLVI. fig. 5), hence these are almost entirely confined to special areas set apart on purpose for them (Pl. I. figs. 5, 5a). It is very interesting to notice how precisely the same adaptation in the arrangement of the pores has taken place in a totally different and widely separated sponge, viz., *Latrunculia apicalis* (*vide infra*); here also the dermal skeleton, although of quite a different kind, is so dense as to allow no room for the pores, which are confined to special raised areas. It is further interesting to notice how these two sponges consequently resemble one another in external form, and that both were obtained from the same station.

Locality.—Station 320, February 14, 1876; lat. 37° 17' S., long. 53° 52' W.; off the mouth of the Rio de la Plata; depth, 600 fathoms; bottom, green sand; bottom temperature, 37°·2. Three specimens.

Halichondria sp. (a).

Under this head we must mention two amorphous masses of sponge, apparently belonging to the genus *Halichondria*, each encrusting a delicately branched white *Gorgonia* from Station 320. The specimens do not present sufficient characters to make a specific determination desirable. They are very soft, spongy, and cavernous, and the skeleton is confused and lax in the extreme. Spicules, smooth, slightly curved oxea, rather abruptly pointed at each end; size, very fairly constant, about 0·35 by 0·017 mm.

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