

This genus was first defined within its present limits by Schmidt.¹ Here, as in the case of other Renierinæ, it is impossible to give an absolute diagnosis separating it from other genera, but no one who has studied the group will fail to recognise the fact that it is a very natural genus. By the development of more spongin uniting the spicules this genus appears to have given rise to those Chalinine sponges which possess a definite rectangular skeleton, the fibre of which is cored by few and small oxete spicules, e.g., *Chalina* (s. str.).

We cannot agree with Schmidt in referring those species which have a separable dermal membrane ("zusammenhängende Oberhaut") to a distinct genus, *Pellina*, as we do not regard this character as being of generic importance. His original type of *Pellina* is *Reniera semitubulosa*, Schmidt. The so-called dermal membrane is also a very distinct feature of *Halichondria panicea*, yet Schmidt keeps this species out of his genus *Pellina*, into which it ought certainly to fall according to his definition, if such it can be called.²

Reniera cinerea, Grant, sp.

1827. *Spongia cinerea*, Grant, Edin. New Phil. Journ., vol. ii. p. 204.

1828. *Halichondria cinerea*, Fleming, History of British Animals, Edinburgh, p. 521.

1866. *Isodictya cinerea*, Bowerbank, Mon. Brit. Spong., vol. ii. p. 274 (vide also vol. iii. pl. xlvi.).

We identify with this species a single small, massive specimen from Station 209, measuring only about 12 mm. in diameter, and of a pale yellow colour. The spicules measure about 0.14 by 0.008 mm. In connection with this specimen the remarkably high temperature (71°·0) of the water in which it lived is very noteworthy.

Locality.—Station 209, January 22, 1875; lat. 10° 14' N., long. 123° 54' E.; Philippine Islands; depth, 95 fathoms; bottom, blue mud; bottom temperature, 71°·0. One specimen.

Habitat.—British Seas (Grant, Bowerbank, &c.); Philippine Islands (Challenger).

Reniera implexa, Schmidt, var. (Pl. I. fig. 4).

1868. *Reniera implexa*, Schmidt, Spong. d. Küste v. Algier, p. 27.

This species is well represented in the collection by a series of specimens from the Azores. These, though identical in external form (Pl. I. fig. 4) with Schmidt's species, as shown by comparison with specimens in the British Museum from Trieste, purchased from Professor Schmidt, differ slightly from it in skeletal characters. Thus the oxete spicules are a little longer and more slender in the Challenger variety, measuring about 0.16 by 0.0063 mm. as against about 0.138 by 0.007 mm. This difference is but very

¹ Spong. Atlant. Gebiet, p. 39.

² Spong. Atlant. Gebiet, p. 41.