

Skeleton.—The skeleton consists, as in the *Rhizochalinæ*, of three kinds of network, viz., (a) a dermal network of oxeote spicules lying immediately beneath a distinct, thin dermal membrane. (b) A coarse, bast-like reticulation of very stout and dense fibres, composed also of oxeote spicules. (c) A less dense reticulation of spiculo-fibre filling up the centre of the sphere and giving support to the canal system; in form and size the spicules are the same as in the preceding.

Spicules.—(a) *Megasclera*; oxea (Pl. IX. fig. 3, a, b, c), size about 0·19 by 0·0115 mm. (b) *Microsclera*, extremely abundant in the deeper sarcode in the form of small sigmata (Pl. IX. fig. 3, d), measuring 0·038 by 0·0032 mm.

This common Shetland species is very poorly represented in the Challenger collection, only two specimens of the body, a small one about 16 mm. in diameter, and a larger one about 31 mm. in diameter, and a few detached fistulæ being present. The oxeote spicules are somewhat shorter than usual, measuring 0·19 by 0·011 mm., while those of the type measure 0·19 to 0·25 by 0·011 mm.

Unfortunately, in the case of all the specimens, including the two bodies, there is some slight doubt as to the exact locality where they were obtained. According to the label on the outside of the bottle they were obtained "off Bermuda," while according to a label inside the bottle, they were obtained "off Bahia, shallow water."

Probably the *Rhizochalina* (?) *fibulata*, described in four lines by Schmidt (Spong. Meerb. Mexico, p. 76) as a new species, from Barbados, 288 fathoms, and possessed of numerous sigmata, is also referable to *Oceanapia robusta*, although the description, which is taken only from a fragment, is too short to make an identification practicable.

Locality.—Bahia (?).

Habitat.—Shetland Isles (Norman); ? Barbados (Schmidt); ? Bahia (Challenger).

Subfamily 2. GELLIINÆ.

1872. *Gelliadae* (*pars*), Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. ix. p. 449.

1886. *Gelliina*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 332.

Megasclera all diactinal, oxea or strongyla. *Microsclera* present, viz., sigmata or toxa. No rind nor fistulæ.

Genus *Gellius*, Gray (Pls. VIII., XIII., XXVI.).

1867. *Gellius*, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., p. 538.

1867. *Asychis*, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., p. 539.

1870. *Desmacodes*, Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 5.

1880. ,, Vosmaer, Notes Leyden Mus., vol. ii. p. 104.

1882. *Fibularia*, *pars*, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. ix. p. 282.

1886. ? *Fibulia*, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xvii. p. 51.

Very little spongin present, never forming distinct fibres.

Gray's original diagnosis runs as follows:—"Sponge massive, minutely hispid.