

*Gellius glacialis*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. VIII. fig. 7 ; Pl. XIII. figs. 1, 15, 19).

1886. *Gellius glacialis*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 333.

Sponge (Pl. VIII. fig. 7) massive, sessile; shape very various, globular, lobate, or cylindrical. *Size*, ranging up to 81 mm. long by about 31 mm. broad (a roughly cylindrical specimen). *Colour* in spirit very pale greyish-yellow. *Texture* firm, but very brittle. (The sponge has very much the appearance of a mass of half-melted snow, whence the specific name.) *Surface* even, but rather rough; dermal layer distinct, readily flaking off; composed of the dermal membrane supported by a reticulation of spicules. The *dermal membrane* itself is extremely delicate and has almost everywhere been removed, probably washed off in coming up in the dredge. It is further supported by abundant, large sigmata. *Pores*; as far as can be made out these are rather large and not abundant. *Oscula* large, irregularly scattered, having their margins flush with the surface of the sponge.

*Skeleton*.—(a) *Dermal* (Pl. XIII. fig. 19); consisting of a very beautiful, almost unispicular reticulation of large, stout, oxeote spicules. (b) *Main*; consisting of a very loose and irregular reticulation of spicules like those forming the dermal layer, and of about the same size (Pl. XIII. fig. 1). Sometimes a few spicules lie more or less parallel and close to one another, so as to form a rudimentary spiculo-fibre. The whole reticulation is very delicate and fragile, and a very small amount of cementing substance (spongin) is present at the points where the spicules touch one another, at or near their apices.

*Spicules*.—(a) *Megasclera*; large oxea (Pl. XIII. fig. 1), slightly curved, and tapering rather abruptly to a sharp point at each end; size, 0.65 by 0.036 mm. (b) *Microsclera*; numerous, large sigmata (Pl. XIII. fig. 15) of the usual shape, occurring very abundantly in the dermal membrane; size up to 0.07 by 0.0063 mm. Smaller ones, probably young forms, also occur.

This species may be most easily recognised by its external appearance. It is probably nearly related to *Gellius carduus*, nobis, but has not the sharp and projecting edges to the oscula which characterise that species. It is exceedingly delicate. In the specimens before us the soft parts have been almost entirely washed away, leaving a very fragile skeleton. Owing to the absence of soft parts and of any coarse fibre the specimens have a peculiar translucent look.

*Locality*.—Station 142, December 18, 1873; lat. 35° 4' S., long. 18° 37' E.; Agulhas Bank; depth, 150 fathoms; bottom, green sand; bottom temperature, 47°.0. About twenty-five specimens.