

*Desmacidon* (?) *ramosa*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXIII. figs. 4, 4a, 4b, 4c; Pl. XXIV. fig. 4; Pl. XLVII. fig. 6).

1886. *Desmacidon* (?) *ramosa*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 346.

Sponge (Pl. XXIV. fig. 4) consisting of numerous, irregular, long, vermiform, anastomosing branches, about 6 mm. in diameter. One piece in the collection is about 212 mm. long, but there seems no reason why it should not grow to a much greater length. *Texture* tough and leathery. *Colour* in spirit pale greyish-yellow. *Surface* uneven and minutely hispid, often with a reticulate appearance. There is a distinct, tough, outer rind, which, however, adheres rather firmly to the underlying tissues. *Dermal membrane* very distinct, transparent. *Oscula* scattered up and down the branches at irregular intervals; their margins are produced into conical protuberances about 2 mm. long. On some branches the oscula are numerous, while in other parts they appear to be almost or entirely wanting. *Pores* scattered between the radiating brushes of spicules which support the dermal membrane.

*Skeleton*.—Of a distinctly radiate type. There is a more or less definite axis of spiculo-fibre running through each branch, from which radiate, though in no very definite manner, numerous bands of spiculo-fibre; these run towards the surface of the sponge, and on approaching it, break up into divergent tufts of spicules which support the dermal membrane and sometimes project beyond it, causing the hispidity of the surface (Pl. XLVII. fig. 6). There is no dermal reticulation.

*Spicules*.—(a) *Megasclera*; of one kind only, viz., sharp-pointed, fusiform oxea (Pl. XXIII. figs. 4, 4a), measuring about 0.6 by 0.022 mm. (b) *Microsclera*; of one kind only, viz., tridentate isochelæ (Pl. XXIII. figs. 4b, 4c), the shafts of which appear to be extended into slight lateral fimbriæ. Length about 0.02 mm.

It will be seen from the above that in spiculation this species would be really a typical *Desmacidon*, were it not for the absence of the sigmata. These, however, appear from the study of other genera to be such very variable elements in the spiculation that they cannot be considered as of generic importance. More important, indeed, is the radial arrangement of the skeleton, very different from that of other species of the genus and, indeed, of most of the family, and making a near approach to the arrangement of the skeleton in the genus *Raspailia*.

*Localities*.—Station 142, December 18, 1873, lat. 35° 4' S., long. 18° 37' E.; south of the Cape of Good Hope; depth, 150 fathoms; bottom, green sand; bottom temperature, 47°·0. Several specimens.

Off Marion Island, 50 to 75 fathoms. One specimen, of much darker (greyish) colour than the previous ones.