

1880 improves upon it with the following:—"Rods smooth or spined, 'echinating.' Anchors minute, equiended;" this also is very wide and really does not give so good an idea of the genus as Schmidt's original diagnosis. It has seemed to us advisable to restrict the genus by the diagnosis given above.

In 1880 (*loc. cit.*) Vosmaer placed *Clathria* amongst the Desmacidonidæ, saying:—"I have found that the genus *Clathria* of Schmidt possesses distinct, often very numerous anchors and bows; so it is to be placed under the Desmacidinæ;" this certainly appears a sensible arrangement, but in 1885 he adopts a different plan and places it apart from the Desmacidines, amongst the Ectyonidæ.<sup>1</sup> We have endeavoured to show elsewhere that the old Ectyonidæ and Desmacidonidæ must fall together in one group, being connected through the genus *Myxilla* (*cf.* p. 129), in which both species with and species without echinating spicules are found. The two genera *Clathria* and *Myxilla* seem to be nearly related, and our *Myxilla frondosa* forms an interesting connecting link.

The original type of the genus is *Clathria coralloides*, Schmidt (*loc. cit.*, p. 58), an Adriatic species; but this species is, unfortunately, not a very good example of the genus as now understood; the next one mentioned by Schmidt (*loc. cit.*), viz., *Clathria compressa*, appears to be much more typical. *Tenacia clathrata*, Schmidt,<sup>2</sup> is simply a *Clathria* with very great actual and relative development of the horny fibre.

*Clathria* appears to be essentially a shallow-water genus; and this fact is no doubt correlated with its horny fibre and fondness for warm seas; the slight exception presented by *Clathria inanchorata* (*vide infra*), from a depth of 120 fathoms, is associated with an aberrant spiculation.

The distribution of the genus is wide in tropical waters, but it seems to be best represented in the Indo-Australian area; as in the case of other horny sponges the genus attains its maximum of development in warmer climates.

### *Clathria aculeata*, Ridley.

1884. *Clathria aculeata*, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., p. 443, pl. xl. fig. 1; pl. xlii. fig. κ.

This species was obtained by the "Alert" in Torres Strait, in which locality the Challenger also found it. It has already been sufficiently described and figured in the "Alert" report (*loc. cit.*).

*Locality*.—Station 186, September 8, 1874; lat. 10° 30' S., long. 142° 18' E.; Torres Strait; depth, 8 fathoms; bottom, Coral mud. One specimen.

*Habitat*.—Torres Strait, shallow water ("Alert" and Challenger).

<sup>1</sup> Bronn's Klass. u. Ordn. des Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 356.

<sup>2</sup> Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 56.