

*Clathria decumbens*, Ridley.

1884. *Clathria decumbens*, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., p. 612, pl. liii. fig. κ ;  
pl. liv. figs. g, g'.

With this species we identify a washed out skeleton from Torres Strait; it differs slightly from the type in external form and in the proportions of the spicules, and the spines at the base of the smooth stylus are very rarely seen. It much resembles in external appearance specimens of *Acarinus ternatus* obtained by the "Alert" from the same locality, forming "a clathrous structure of round soft anastomosing trabeculæ."<sup>1</sup>

*Locality*.—Cape York, Torres Strait; August 7, 1874; depth, 3 to 11 fathoms. One specimen.

*Habitat*.—Boudeuse and Étoile Islands, Amirante Group, 10 to 13 fathoms (Ridley, "Alert"); Torres Strait (Challenger).

*Clathria lendenfeldi*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXVIII. fig. 5; Pl. XXIX. fig. 6; Pl. XLVII. fig. 5).

1886. *Clathria Lendenfeldi*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 474.

Sponge (Pl. XXVIII. fig. 5) based upon a slender Gorgonia axis, which it encrusts. From the encrusting portion arise several straight, cylindrical, unbranched processes about 8 mm. in diameter, the longest of which is 94 mm. high. *Colour* in spirit light yellow. *Texture* soft, fibrous, elastic. *Surface* hispid, with a reticulate appearance due to the reticulate main skeleton (the specimen appears, however, to be a good deal worn). *Oscula* small and scattered.

*Skeleton*.—(a) *Dermal*; consisting of very slender, irregularly scattered, stylote spicules, often found in loose, irregular brushes. (b) *Main*; a reticulation of stout, well-developed horny fibre, cored in places (chiefly at the ends of the primary lines) by smooth stylote spicules. These spicules project freely from the ends of the primary fibres and thus give rise to the hispidation of the surface. The fibre (Pl. XLVII. fig. 5) abundantly is very echinated by spined stylote spicules, which are most abundant on the secondary fibres. The secondary fibres are, also, almost or entirely without an axial core of spicules.

*Spicules*.—(a) *Megasclera*; (1) long, straight, very slender, smooth styli or subtylostyli, very sharply and gradually pointed at the apex, sometimes faintly and minutely spined at the base, measuring about 0.35 by 0.005 mm.; dermal. (2) Much larger, stouter, smooth, very gradually and sharply pointed styli, slightly curved and measuring about 0.6 by 0.02 mm.; in the main skeleton. Much smaller styli also occur as constituents

<sup>1</sup> Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," Brit. Mus., 1884, p. 453.