follow him, since, in spite of the extreme faultiness of the original descriptions, the genus is, according to Mr. Carter's own showing, recognisable. It is not known as a common type in any seas but those of the West Indies, whence Carter describes several species.

The systematic position of this genus is very doubtful. We include it here only on the supposition that it has lost its microsclera.

Agelas mauritianus, Carter sp. (Pl. XXIX. fig. 10).

1883. *Ectyon mauritianus*, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xii. p. 310, pl. xii. fig. 3, *a*, *b*.

This species, so well characterised by its beautiful, moniliform, echinating spicule (Pl. XXIX. fig. 10), is represented in the collection by a single specimen of irregular massive form and curiously cavernous structure, but of doubtful locality; as the species has already been described, and the characteristic spicule figured by Mr. Carter (and now again by us), we need give no further details.

A parchment label inside the bottle bears the words, "Station 135 ? 60 fms."

Habitat.—Mauritius (Carter); off Tristan da Cunha (?) (Challenger).

Genus *Echinodictyum*, Ridley (Pl. XXXII.).

1881. *Echinodictyum*, Ridley, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.), vol. xv. p. 493.

Skeleton reticulate. Megasclera smooth oxea in the fibre (sometimes accompanied by partially projecting, smooth, slender styli) and spined styli echinating the fibre. No microsclera.

The genus *Echinodictyum* was established by Ridley (*loc. cit.*) for certain species of various external habit, but agreeing in the possession of a reticulate skeleton consisting of smooth oxeote megasclera united together in fibres by spongin, the fibre being echinated by spined spicules projecting from it at right angles. Thus as regards spiculation it is distinguished from *Raspailia* only by virtue of its oxeote instead of stylote main megasclera; the external form is, however, usually massive and the skeleton reticulate and not radiate as is the case in *Raspailia*. Subsequently some species were found in which the fibre was accompanied by smooth slender styli sparingly associated with rather than inserted in it; the spicular distinction thus ceasing to be an entirely absolute one. It is probable, however, that the *Ectyonine* arrangement, the relations of the fibre and its spicules, and the bulky growth indicate that it forms a natural genus, distinct from *Raspailia* with its slender cylindrical axes, radiate skeleton arrangement, and almost exclusively stylote spicules. We include this genus amongst the Ectyoninæ, like the genus *Agelas*, on the supposition that it had at one time microsclera which it has now lost.