

There is in the British Museum a single dried specimen<sup>1</sup> which in its delicate appearance comes nearer to the present species, but still ought probably to be regarded as a variety of *Ciocalypta penicillus*; indeed a careful examination of the types has convinced us that it is so. Mr. Carter<sup>2</sup> refers to it as follows:—"In the British Museum, among the specimens dredged up on board the 'Norna' on the coast of Portugal, is a sponge of a similar conical form, also grouped, but with a tuberculated surface, each tubercle of which is supported on a bundle of spicules that radiate from a solid, conical, central axis. Here, however, there is only one kind of spicule, viz., acute, smooth, and sharp pointed; so that it does not belong to the Ectyonida, but, belonging to the Axinellida, might be called '*Ciocalypta* (Bk.) *tuberculata*,' seeing that, like other species of this group about to be mentioned, it will probably have to come under the order Echinonemata." The tuberculated appearance here noticed is caused merely by the sinking in of the dermal membrane between the supporting columns on drying, and is quite as prominent a feature in the dried specimens of *Ciocalypta penicillus*.

*Locality*.—Station 320, February 14, 1876; lat 37° 17' S., long. 53° 52' W.; off the mouth of the Rio de la Plata; depth, 600 fathoms; bottom, green sand; bottom temperature, 37°·2. Four pieces.

*Ciocalypta amorphosa*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XL. fig. 9).

1886. *Ciocalypta amorphosa*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 479.

Sponge massive, amorphous; forming shapeless, rounded masses, the largest of which is about 75 mm. long by 50 mm. broad and 38 mm. thick. *Colour* in spirit grey. *Texture* very spongy, fibrous, honeycombed; resembling that of a common bath sponge which has been prepared for use, but not nearly so tough. *Surface*, in the present condition of the sponge extremely rough and shaggy, beset with numerous fibrous tufts which, in the perfect condition, support a very delicate dermal membrane continuously stretched over them at some little distance from the main mass of the sponge. *Dermal membrane* very thin, delicate and transparent; only portions of it remain, supported on the outspread ends of the fibrous tufts above mentioned. *Oscula* (?). *Pores* extremely numerous, round or oval openings, scattered through the dermal membrane, variable in size.

*Skeleton*.—The main skeleton is a very loose, confused, vaguely fibrous reticulation of very long oxoete and stylote spicules; this skeletal arrangement obtains in the trabeculæ of tissue between the numerous wide canals of the sponge. At the surface are given off from the main mass loosely fibrous columns of spicules which spread out at their distal

<sup>1</sup> Registered 72.5.4.1.

<sup>2</sup> Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. xviii. p. 235.