

cattered in the soft tissues, length about 0·0126 mm.; breadth extremely variable; these bundles appear of a distinctly brown colour, a character which is also noticeable in *Thrinacophora funiformis*, nobis.

In the arrangement of the skeleton and the general form of the megasclera, and in the possession of trichodragmata, this sponge bears a most marked resemblance to *Thrinacophora funiformis*, nobis, and the two are evidently very nearly related. The characteristic forked spicules of the latter are represented in the present species by the slender styli, and have probably been derived from some such form of spicule (or possibly *vice versa*).

We placed this species first in the genus because we considered it to be the least highly modified of the two.

Locality.—Station 208, January 17, 1875; lat. 11° 37' N., long. 123° 31' E.; Philippine Islands; depth, 18 fathoms; bottom, blue mud. Two specimens.

Thrinacophora funiformis, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXIII. figs. 1, 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g; Pl. XXIV. figs. 1, 1a, 1b).

1886. *Thrinacophora funiformis*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 484.

Sponge (Pl. XXIV. figs. 1, 1a, 1b) of fairly definite form; always cylindrical and more or less elongated; may or may not be branched. The largest specimen in the collection is unbranched except close to the base, where there is a slight trace of branching; it is about 450 mm. long,¹ flexible and rope-like, and about 6 mm. in average diameter. A second specimen (Pl. XXIV. fig. 1a) evidently younger, is of very different and more definite form. Arising from a flattened and expanded base there is a short, straight peduncle, which, at a height of about 12 mm., divides into two branches, one of which again divides into two. Total height about 81 mm. Sponge composed of a dense, fibrous axis with a soft external coat of a pulpy consistency. *Colour* in spirit dirty yellow. *Surface* very uneven, thickly beset with rather stiff, small, projecting conuli. *Dermal membrane* distinct and very granular. *Oscula* small, scattered. *Pores* not seen (the specimens are not in very good condition).

Skeleton.—There is a very thick and dense central axis of spiculo-fibre from which other fibres radiate to the surface, there entering into the numerous projecting conuli. It is not easy to make out any other definite skeleton, although there are a great number of spicules scattered through the soft tissues of the sponge.

Spicules.—(a) *Megasclera*; (1) long, slender styli (Pl. XXIII. figs. 1a, 1b), straight or curved, with evenly rounded base and tapering very gradually to a very fine point at the apex; size very variable, up to about 1·8 by 0·025 mm. (2) Long, slender, unequally

¹ The end appears to have been broken off; doubtless the specimen when perfect was a little longer, though probably not much.