

ended oxea (Pl. XXIII. fig. 1); with the large end slightly uneven near the point and tapering rather suddenly; at the small end tapering very gradually to a very fine point, or irregular; size very variable, up to about 1·7 by 0·023 mm. There can be little doubt that these spicules are merely modifications of (1). (3) Much shorter, equal ended, fusiform oxea (Pl. XXIII. figs. 1*c*, 1*d*); usually sharply pointed at each end, but with the ends often rather uneven, usually with a rather sharp bend in the centre; size variable, up to about 0·6 by 0·023 mm. (4) Spicules of a very peculiar form, cladostrongyla (Pl. XXIII. figs. 1*e*, 1*f*); each consisting of a slightly crooked shaft of even diameter all along; terminating at one end in an evenly rounded extremity and at the other dividing into a number (usually about three) of very irregular, short branches, like the fangs of a human tooth. Size fairly uniform, up to about 0·52 by 0·0063 mm. These spicules often occur together in bundles, like faggots of wood, sometimes surrounding the larger megasclera; they also occur fairly abundantly in the dermal membrane, where they are scattered separately. It is well worthy of note that the axial thread itself forks with the forking of the spicule. (b) *Microsclera*; of one kind only, viz., trichodragmata (Pl. XXIII. fig. 1*g*), occurring abundantly scattered through the soft parts of the sponge, especially in the dermal membrane, in parts of which they form an almost continuous layer. They have the form of small, oblong bundles, measuring about 0·1 by 0·01 mm. Though usually fairly compact these bundles seem readily to break up into a multitude of component spicules which are exceedingly fine and hair-like.

This species is at once distinguished by the presence of the peculiar forked megasclera.

Locality.—Off Bahia; depth, 7 to 20 fathoms. Two good specimens and four fragments.

Off Bahia; shallow water. One specimen.

(?) Off Bahia; shallow water.¹ One large specimen and two fragments. The large specimen is composed of two long, straight pieces, which have grown up parallel with one another from a common basal portion, and have fused together for a considerable part of their length.

Suborder II. CLAVULINA, Vosmaer.

1885. *Clavulina*, Vosmaer, Bronn's Klass. u. Ordnung. d. Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 328.

Sponge typically corticate. Skeleton usually more or less radiately arranged, with a dermal crust of spicules which may be either of the same form as in the main skeleton or of a special form (spined spirulæ, &c.). Megasclera typically tylostylote. Microsclera, when present, belonging almost invariably to the stellate group; never chelæ or sigmata. Spongin usually absent.

¹ According to the inside label; the outside label had—"Off Bermuda." There can, however, be little doubt that Bahia is the correct locality.