

Suberites caminatus,¹ Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XLI. fig. 2; Pl. XLV. figs. 5, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d).

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

Sponge (woodcut, Fig. 7) massive, roughly hemispherical, sessile, corticate, resembling in shape and size *Esperella mammiiformis*, nobis. The single specimen in the collection is attached by a broad base to an empty Brachiopod shell and terminates in a single oscular projection at the apex. The base is not round but oval, and the longer diameter measures 19 mm., and the shorter about 13 mm. Height of sponge about 13 mm. Colour in spirit light, greyish-yellow. Texture very firm, hard and compact. Surface even, but very minutely hispid and rather harsh to the touch; also marked with shallow meandering and anastomosing grooves, so as to become faintly tessellated. Osculum



FIG. 7.—*Suberites caminatus*; attached to a Brachiopod shell; o, osculum.

(Fig. 7, o) single, small, tubular, at the summit of the sponge. Pores difficult to make out, almost certainly in the shallow grooves on the surface; seen in section leading into elongated subdermal cavities between the skeleton fascicles of the cortex.

Skeleton.—There is a very dense and definite cortex (ectosome), about 0.63 mm. thick, very sharply and suddenly marked off from the underlying tissues and strengthened by closely placed fascicles of tylostylote spicules which extend right through it, and have their points directed outwards, but projecting only very slightly beyond the surface. The deeper skeleton is rather scanty and is composed of bands of spiculo-fibre (formed of large tylostylote spicules), which run vertically towards the surface of the sponge to join the cortical layer.

Spicules.—*Megasclera*; of one form only, viz., smooth tylostyli (Pl. XLV. figs. 5, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d). There are two chief sizes, the smaller ones occurring in the cortex and the larger in the deeper skeleton; there is great variability in size; the spicules of the cortex measure about 0.35 by 0.01 mm., they are stouter in proportion to their length than are the spicules of the deeper skeleton, have well developed, roundedly triangular heads and sharp points, and are often slightly bent. The spicules of the deeper skeleton are very long, straight and slender, have rather less developed, pointedly oval heads, and taper very gradually indeed to an extremely fine point at the apex; size about 1.2 by 0.017 mm. Intermediate sizes are abundant.

This is a very pretty and interesting little sponge; it may be recognised by its external form, and more especially by the projecting, well-marked osculum. The form recalls somewhat *Tentorium semisuberites*. This and the further resemblance recorded in the variety

¹ So called from the chimney-like osculum at the summit of the sponge.