

*Suberites axiatus*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XLV. figs. 15, 15a, 15b, 15c).

1886. *Suberites axiatus*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 485.

Sponge irregular in shape, lobose or digitate. Unfortunately the species is represented in the collection only by a few fragments in very bad condition; they are now of a dull, reddish-yellow colour (like many other specimens from the same station), which appears to have been caused by their having been packed in some iron vessel which has rusted and discoloured the spirit. *Texture* soft and spongy, with a thick, dense axis up the centre of the branches. *Surface* hispid.

*Skeleton*.—There is a dense, stout, central axis of longitudinally placed spicules, which, though closely packed, are not firmly united together, so that the axis is readily broken across, leaving at each broken end a mass of projecting spicules which have been pulled out from amongst their fellows. From this axis radiate bands of spiculo-fibre to the surface of the sponge, where the spicules diverge and give rise to more or less of hispidity. The radiating fibres do not usually come off at right angles from the axis but more or less obliquely, so that when a branch is broken across the broken end has the form of a cone on the one hand, and of a funnel, into which the cone fits, on the other.

*Spicules*.—*Megasclera*; of one form only, viz., tylostyli (Pl. XLV. figs. 15, 15a, 15b, 15c), with fairly well-developed, subglobular heads and fusiform shafts, tapering gradually to a sharp point at the apex. Size very variable; the larger spicules, in the interior of the sponge, measure about 1·75 by 0·031 mm., but towards the outside of the sponge the spicules become very much shorter and slenderer, commonly measuring about 0·7 by 0·0126 mm.

The most remarkable point about this species is the very strongly developed axis; it will be seen to approach closely to Carter's species *Suberites antarcticus*, but differs in habit, in colour, and in the much greater size of the spicules.

*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. Fragments.

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

1886. *Suberites durissimus*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 485.

Sponge (Pl. XLI. fig. 1) pedunculate, form rather irregular. The single specimen in the collection consists of a basal, rhizome-like portion, from which arise two stalks, each bearing an expanded, oval or subglobular head; in the case of the smaller one the peduncle is produced upwards beyond the expanded head, while the larger is broadly and evenly rounded at the top. The smaller stalk gives off, near its base, a flattened process