

from the two stations, save that the variety, in so far as can be judged from the specimens in the collection, seems to attain a greater size and altogether a much more luxuriant growth than does the species; possibly this is attributable to the higher temperature of the water in which it lives.

Locality.—Station 209, January 22, 1875; lat. 10° 14' N., long. 123° 54' E.; Philippine Islands; depth, 95 fathoms; bottom, blue mud; bottom temperature, 71°·0. A large number of specimens.

Suberites senilis, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XLV. figs. 1, 1a, 1b).

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

Sponge sessile, hemispherical, attached to a small stone (apparently a manganese nodule); covered with very long, delicate, projecting spicules like a coating of grey hair,¹ with a single, small, oscular (?) projection at the summit. *Diameter* about 8 mm. (excluding the projecting spicules). *Colour* in spirit (after drying) pale, greyish-yellow. *Surface* very strongly hispid. *Osculum* (?) single, at the top of a small, chimney-like projection.

Skeleton.—Composed of great, radiating, divergent brushes of tylostylote spicules. These brushes arise from various levels in the sponge, some from the base and others from nearer to the surface, and their projecting spicules, many of which extend for a millimetre or more beyond the surface of the sponge, give rise to its hairy appearance. Within the sponge itself the space (where such exists) between the radiating brushes of spicules is filled up with a confused mass of shorter tylostylote spicules, which appear to be mixed up together without any pretence of arrangement.

Spicules.—*Megasclera* (Pl. XLV. figs. 1, 1a, 1b); of one kind only, but varying much in size. The spicules of the radiating brushes are very long, straight and slender, slightly fusiform, with very well developed oval heads and tapering gradually at the apex to a very fine point (usually broken off). These spicules may reach as much as about 3·0 mm. in length with a diameter of about 0·019 mm. The shorter spicules are much more distinctly fusiform than the longer ones, stouter in proportion to their length, with narrow, constricted neck and almost globular head; they are gradually and finely pointed at the apex and often more or less bent near the neck; length very variable, commonly about 0·5 mm., sometimes less and often more, diameter about 0·015 mm., passing into the larger forms already noticed.

The most interesting points about this sponge are the great size of its spicules and the very great depth (2050 fathoms) from which it was obtained. Unfortunately it was put into a very small bottle with a bad stopper, and, though the bottle was bladdered down, was completely dried up. Although it has no well-marked spicular cortex, yet this

¹ Hence the specific name.