

Locality.—Station 299, December 14, 1875; lat. 33° 31' S., long. 74° 43' W.; west of Valparaiso; depth, 2160 fathoms; bottom, blue mud; bottom temperature, 35°·2. Two specimens.

Genus *Tentorium*, Vosmaer.

1870. *Thecophora*, Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 50.

1885. *Tentorium*, Vosmaer, Bronn's Klass. u. Ordn. d. Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 329.

Sponge sessile, columnar or conical; protected by a dense, cylindrical sheath of longitudinally placed spicules, which form a solid, imperforate layer. Over the top there is a proper fibrous cortex containing bundles of smaller spicules arranged vertically to the surface, between which are situate the large, elongated subdermal cavities. Pores on the upper surface only. Oscula tubular, in the centre of the upper surface; commonly only one. Spicules tylostylote or subtylostylote.

Schmidt gives no generic diagnosis, but Vosmaer, in addition to pointing out that the name *Thecophora* is already occupied, gives the following:—"Cylindrischer mit breiter Basis angewachsener Körper. Oben sind kleine papillenartige Oscula. Rinde besonders deutlich oben. Spic. indic. *tr° ac. f.* von verschiedener Grösse."

Only a single species of the genus is as yet established.

Tentorium semisuberites, Schmidt, sp.

1870. *Thecophora semisuberites*, Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 50, pl. vi. fig. 2.

1873. *Thecophora ibla*, Wyville Thomson, Depths of the Sea, p. 147, fig. 24.

1877. *Thecophora elongata*, von Marenzeller, Die Coelenteraten, Echinodermen und Würmer der K. K. Österreichisch-ungarischen Nordpol-Expedition, p. 12, pl. ii. fig. 4.

1885. *Tentorium semisuberites*, Vosmaer, Bronn's Klass. u. Ordn. d. Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 329, pl. ii. fig. 4; pl. xxi. fig. 19.

This very interesting and well-characterised sponge is represented in the collection by a fine series of ten specimens from Station 49, and a single very fine specimen, attached to a stone, from Station 50. There are also four specimens, much smaller than usual and characterised by correspondingly smaller spicules, from Inaccessible Island, which we propose to consider as belonging to a dwarf variety, although the possibility of their being young forms must be borne in mind. Hansen¹ has already given *Thecophora ibla* and *Thecophora elongata* as synonyms of the original *Tentorium semisuberites* and we are quite prepared to follow him in this. The difference between the three forms depends very largely on the degree of contraction of the specimen; when the specimen is in an expanded condition, the top appears evenly rounded, as in Schmidt's original figure and

¹ The Norwegian North-Atlantic Expedition, 1876-1878, Spongiadæ, p. 8.