

in fig. 23 (*Thecophora semisuberites*) of the Depths of the Sea; when, on the other hand, the animal is contracted, the top of the sponge, owing to the arrangement of the brushes of spicules immediately below the surface, becomes uneven and "scaly" in appearance as in fig. 24 (*Thecophora ibla*) of the Depths of the Sea. Evidently, when living, the sponge possesses great power of contractility, a power which would appear to be shared in large measure by the oscular tube.

Vosmaer, in his Report on the Sponges of the "Willem Barents" Expedition of 1880 and 1881 (p. 18), has given some account of the minute anatomy of this species, and some observations on this subject are also given in the Introduction to the present work.

Localities.—Station 49, May 20, 1873; lat. 43° 3' N., long. 63° 39' W.; south of Nova Scotia; depth, 85 fathoms; bottom, gravel, stones; bottom temperature, 35°·0. Ten specimens.

Station 50, May 21, 1873; lat. 42° 8' N., long. 63° 39' W.; south of Nova Scotia; depth, 1250 fathoms; bottom, blue mud; bottom temperature, 38°·0. One specimen.

Inaccessible Island, October 16, 1873; depth, 60 to 90 fathoms. Four small specimens of a dwarf variety.

Habitat.—Arctic Seas (Schmidt, Vosmaer, &c.); North Atlantic (Carter, &c.); Gulf of St. Lawrence (Whiteaves); Newfoundland (Smith and Harger); off Nova Scotia (Challenger); Inaccessible Island (Challenger).

Genus *Stylocordyla*, Wyville Thomson (Pl. XLIII.).

1869. *Hyalonema (pars)*, Lovén, Öfversigt k. Vetensk.-Akad. Förhandl., vol. xxv. p. 119.

1873. *Stylocordyla*, Wyville Thomson, The Depths of the Sea, p. 113.

1876. *Polymastia (pars)*, Carter, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. xviii. p. 393.

1880. *Stylorhiza*, Schmidt, Spong. Meerb. von Mexico, pt. ii. p. 79; pl. x. fig. 5.

1881. (?) *Rhizaxinella*, Keller, Arch. Micr. Anat., vol. xviii. p. 271.

Sponge corticate, differentiated into distinct head and stalk. Skeleton in head radiately arranged, with a cortical layer of smaller spicules set vertically to the surface; skeleton in stalk consisting chiefly of a dense axis of longitudinally arranged spicules. Spicules oxeote only.

This genus still stands aloof from all other Suberitidæ in its remarkable spiculation, though, as regards external form, the old distinction embodied in the term *Stylocordyla* no longer holds good, for similar stipitate forms are found to occur in the genus *Suberites* (e.g., *Suberites ramulosus*, nobis).

Only one species of the genus is as yet established satisfactorily (see synonyms and references below).