

of Mexico, under the name *Bursalina muta*, var., is really *Quasillina* at all; the external form, as figured by him, is somewhat different, and he has not determined, apparently through fear of injuring the specimen, whether a large central cavity is present or not; this being, though only a post-mortem condition, very characteristic of the species. The species appears to be widely distributed and not uncommon, especially in northern latitudes.

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

Habitat.—Shetland (Bowerbank, &c.); south-west coast of Norway (Schmidt); south of Nova Scotia (Challenger); ? Gulf of Mexico (Schmidt); Mediterranean, off Benzert, North Africa (specimens in British Museum); Arctic Ocean (Vosmaer).

Genus *Cliona*, Grant (Pls. XXV., XXIX.).

1826. *Cliona*, Grant, Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, vol. i. p. 78.

1833. *Vioa*, Nardo, Isis, p. 523.

1866. *Hymeniacion* (*pars*), Bowerbank, Mon. Brit. Spong., vol. ii. p. 212.

Suberitidæ of boring habit. Spicules tylostyli.

Our knowledge of the boring sponges and their classification is perhaps in a more unsatisfactory condition than our knowledge of any other group of like importance amongst the Monaxonida. In the first place it appears to us that far too much stress has been laid on the mere boring habit as a character of classificatory importance, and that it is a mistake to group together all the boring sponges as necessarily belonging to even the same subfamily, while it is quite unnecessary to erect a special group for their reception, like the "*Eccælonida*" of Mr. Carter.¹

It appears, however, that nearly all the boring sponges as yet known belong to the *Clavulina*, but some belong to the family Suberitidæ, while others belong to the Spirastrellidæ. The name *Cliona* must be confined to the former group, *i.e.*, to the species with no microsclera. This is the only genus here dealt with, and so we shall not in this place discuss the matter further, merely stating that *Cliona* is a genus of Suberitidæ which has taken to boring habits.

Cliona dissimilis, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXV. figs. 5, 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d; Pl. XXIX. fig. 8).

1886. *Cliona dissimilis*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 490.

Sponge (Pl. XXV. figs. 5, 5a) encrusting and boring into a Madreporarian Coral (*Turbinaria* sp.). The corallum of the *Turbinaria* forms a tabular lamella about 13 mm. thick, now broken into several large pieces. This is coated on both surfaces by a very thin

¹ Journ. Roy. Micr. Soc., vol. ii. p. 496.