

throughout, but soft and spongy, with easily separable, parchment-like cortex. *Surface* smooth between the conical processes, but rather harsh to the touch. *Oscula* on the tops of conical processes. *Pores* (probably as in *Latrunculia apicalis*).

Skeleton.—There is a dense dermal crust, composed as usual of a single layer of vertically placed discasters; and below this there is a loose, irregular reticulation of stylote spicules, in which one may distinguish poorly developed lines of fibre, some running towards the surface representing the primary skeleton lines.

Spicules.—(a) *Megasclera*; smooth styli (Pl. XLV. fig 10), straight or very slightly crooked, with evenly rounded bases and more or less hastately pointed apices, not very sharp; size about 0·6 by 0·126 mm. (b) *Microsclera*, discastra; for these we refer to Pl. XLV. fig. 10a, and also to the description of the corresponding spicules in *Latrunculia apicalis*, merely stating that they differ chiefly from the latter in having no apical prolongations; the upper whorls are approximated so as to form a thick brush at the top, the largest occupying the same position as in *Latrunculia apicalis*; length about 0·05 mm., diameter of largest whorl about 0·044 mm.

The form of the "chess-man" spicule is, as usual in the genus *Latrunculia*, the most characteristic feature of the species. (This remark would scarcely be applicable to *Latrunculia cratera*, Bocage,¹ should the very minute size of the megasclera, viz., 0·18 mm. long, as ascertained by calculation from the figure, which would at once distinguish it from all the Challenger species, be confirmed.)²

A slight variety, of which there is one specimen, from the same station as the types of the species, has the "chess-man" spicule a trifle (but very slightly) elongated and the whorls much further apart from one another as compared with the type; thereby making an approach to the Kerguelen species, *Latrunculia bocagei*, nobis.

It would be curious, if it should prove to be correct, that there should be only one form of mammiform processes in this species, that all should be conical and osculum-bearing, with no raised pore-areas. We are, however, strongly inclined to think, both from the analogy of other species and from the enormous number of the projections, which can scarcely all be cloacal tubes, that the raised pore-areas would be found to exist in more perfectly preserved specimens, although in the Challenger specimens they are indistinguishable from the osculum-bearing processes.

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. About ten specimens in poor condition, being a good deal crushed.

¹ Journ. Acad. real Sci. Lisboa, vol. ii. p. 161, pl. xi. fig. 2.

² See, however, the remarks after the next species.