

simply rounded off at the other it is said to be *cladostrongylote*, and the spicules are *cladostrongyla*. Such spicules occur in *Thrinacophora funiformis*, nobis (vide Pl. XXIII. figs. 1e, 1f).

2. *Cladotylota* (woodcut, Fig. III., 2); when it is branched at one end and swollen into a knob at the other, it is said to be *cladotylote*, and the spicules are *cladotylota*. Such forms occur in the genus *Acarinus*.

Any of the above forms of megasclera may become spinose, as frequently happens in the case of styli (e.g., in the genus *Myxilla*), but this in no way affects their fundamental forms or the names applied to them.

Swellings, also, may be developed elsewhere than at the ends of the spicule; hence, when there is a swelling in the centre of the spicule it is said to be *centrotylote* (Pl. IX. fig. 2, b, c), and when there are several swellings on a spicule (no matter where they are situate) it is said to be *polytylote* (Pl. XIX. figs. 9, 9').

Microsclera.

The microsclera of the Monaxonida exhibit considerable variety in form, and it is no easy matter to arrange them satisfactorily in natural groups. The simplest plan, and that which we shall adopt here, is to consider them under three heads—(A) simple linear forms, (B) hooked forms, and (C) stellate forms. This may be an artificial arrangement, but it is a convenient one in practice, and as yet we hardly know enough about the question to allow of a more philosophical classification.

A. Simple Linear Forms.

1. Minute *oxea* (woodcut, Fig. IV., 3), which are generally if not always spined, as in *Dendropsis bidentifera*, nobis (Pl. XL. fig. 7c), *Spongilla lacustris*, &c.

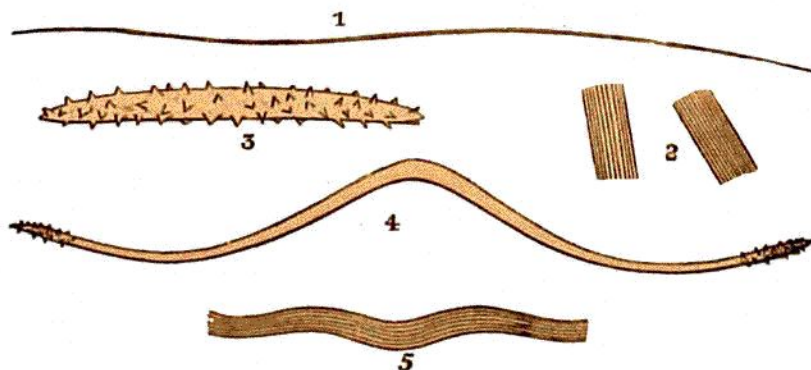


FIG. IV.—Linear forms of microsclera.

2. *Rhaphides* (woodcut, Fig. IV., 1); long, hair-like spicules, not in sheaves. These occur in great abundance in the genus *Tedania*.