

Genus 3. *Sphinctrella*, O. Schmidt.

*Sphinctrella*, O. Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 65, 1870.

*Vulcanella*, Sollas, Prelim. Account, Sci. Proc. Roy. Dubl. Soc., vol. v. p. 186, 1886.

Thereidæ in which the pores are generally dispersed, but the oscules few and highly specialised, each the large patent opening of a shallow cloaca, which is lined by a coarsely fenestrated membrane; spicules as in *Pacillastra*.

*Sphinctrella cribrifera*, Sollas. (Pl. X. figs. 13-20.)

*Vulcanella cribrifera*, Sollas, Prelim. Account, Sci. Proc. Roy. Dubl. Soc., vol. v. p. 186, 1886.

*Sponge* (Pl. X. fig. 13a) more or less ovate; lower half (Pl. X. fig. 14a) embedded in a specimen of *Calthropella geodiides*, Carter. Upper half bearing one or more large round oscules (Pl. X. fig. 16), each surrounded by a marginal fringe of long oxate spicules, the patent opening of a wide shallow cloaca, which is lined by a somewhat coarsely fenestrated membrane, covering the termination of the excurrent canals. Surface hispid. Canals with thick collenchymatous walls. Flagellated chambers 0·04 mm. in average diameter.

*Spicules*.—I. Megascleres. 1. *Oxea* (Pl. X. fig. 17), stout, fusiform, straight or curved, not sharply pointed; 3·035 by 0·0671 mm.

2. *Oxea*, long, slender, cylindrical, sharply pointed, straight or curved; 7·5 mm. and over, by 0·0316 mm.

3. *Orthotriæne* (Pl. X. fig. 18), rhabdome straight, sharply pointed, with the cladi diverging chiefly outwards, scarcely at all forwards, usually bluntly pointed, or with the ends rounded. Rhabdome 1·0 by 0·0395 mm., cladi 0·25 by 0·0316 mm.

4. *Calthrops*, isoactinate with conical pointed actines, each from 0·286 by 0·0395, to 0·636 by 0·08 mm.

5. *Strongyle*, straight or curved, terminating abruptly in rounded ends (sausage-shaped); 0·357 by 0·0276 mm. This form is confined to the margin of the cloaca.

II. Microscleres. 6. *Microxea*, slender, fusiform, sharply pointed, straight or curved, of very various dimensions, from 0·011 mm. and upwards in length.

7. *Metaster* (Pl. X. fig. 20, the upper one of the two figures), very various in form, sometimes reduced to the plesiaster type; spines often 0·0118 mm. long.

8. *Spiraster* (Pl. X. fig. 20, the lower one of the two figures), a slender spire of several turns, with slender spirally arranged spines; 0·016 to 0·02 mm. in total length, a single spine from 0·002 to 0·004 mm. long.

*Colour*.—Brown.

*Habitat*.—St. Iago, Porto Praya, Cape Verde Islands, August 1873; depth, 100 to 128 fathoms.