

Genus 5. *Stelletta*, O. Sch.

Oscules may or may not be evident. Pores in sieves overlying completely differentiated chones. Cortex well developed, consisting of an outer collenchymatous layer passing externally into a thin fibrous layer, and of a clearly differentiated thick inner fibrous layer. Chones completely differentiated. Of the two forms of aster, one is characteristic of the ectosome and the other of the choanosome, though neither is confined to the region it characterises. The ectosomal asters, however, form a layer beneath the outer epithelium, from which the choanosomal aster is rigidly excluded.

Stelletta phrissens,¹ Sollas (Pl. XVI. figs. 6-20).

Stelletta phrissens, Sollas, Prelim. Account, Sci. Proc. Roy. Dubl. Soc., vol. v. p. 192, 1886.

Sponge (Pl. XVI. figs. 6, 7) spherical to cylindrical, compressed, with rounded edges; attached. Surface bristling with spicules which project for a distance of 6 to 7 mm.; embossed, a polygonal network of linear depressions defining low rounded swellings or bosses, about 2 to 3 mm. in diameter. Pores in sieves, chiefly distributed over the linear depressions and the sides of the bosses. Oscules small, not exceeding 1 mm. in diameter, distributed in scattered groups. Cortex thick, consisting of an outer collenchymatous and an inner fibrous layer without special spicules, except for a single layer of minute spherasters occurring immediately below the outer epithelium.

Spicules.—I. Megascleres. 1. *Oxea*, fusiform, obtusely pointed, 4.65 by 0.073 to 4.89 by 0.07 mm.

2. *Dichotriæne* (Pl. XVI. fig. 8); a stout conical rhabdome, below the cladome faintly constricted, then for a short distance cylindrical or bulging, finally attenuating, till when about 0.0125 mm. in diameter it ends in a rounded point; protocladi curving forwards and outwards, cyathiform; deuterocladi conical, bluntly pointed, diverging horizontally. Rhabdome from 3.5 by 0.118 to 4.19 by 0.12 mm., protocladi from 0.127 to 0.143 mm. long, about half the length of the deuterocladi, which are about 0.254 to 0.303 mm. long, chord of the cladome 0.7 mm., of the deuterocladi 0.286 mm.

3. *Anatriæne* (Pl. XVI. fig. 9) a somewhat fusiform rhabdome, first diminishing in thickness from the cladome proximally, then increasing, and finally diminishing, till when about 0.008 mm. in diameter, it ends in a rounded point; cladi conical, with obtuse or rounded points, gently curving outwards and scarcely backwards for one-third of their length, then somewhat suddenly bent more backwards than outwards; cladome slightly projecting in front. Rhabdome from 8.72 to 8.1 mm. long; 0.051 wide below the head, diminishing to 0.037, and then increasing to 0.058, finally attenuating to 0.008 mm. in diameter, and ending in a rounded point.

¹ *φελισσα*, to bristle.