

## Family III. TETHYIDÆ (Vosmaer).

Centrospinthara in which the ectosome is a well-differentiated cortex, with a distinct fibrous layer. The megascleres are rhabdi, radially arranged. The microscleres are spherasters.

Genus 1. *Tethya*, Lamarck.

Tethyidæ of more or less spherical form, in which the rhabdus is a strongyloxea. The chamber-system is diplodal.

*Tethya seychellensis* (E. P. Wright) (Pl. XLIV. figs. 1-6).

*Alema seychellensis*, E. P. Wright, Trans. Roy. Irish Acad., vol. xxviii. (Sci.), p. 13, pl. i., 1881.

*Sponge* (Pl. XLIV. fig. 1).—More or less spherical, attached or free, surface conulose, conules gemmiferous, varying in form according to position and the presence, state of development, or absence of gemmæ. Oscules one or more in number; pores in sieves, situated in the depressions between the conules, leading into extensive intercortical cavities (Pl. XLIV. fig. 4).

*Spicules*.—I. Megasclere. 1. *Strongyloxea*, fusiform, anisoactinate, esactine strongylate, eactine tapering to a narrower termination than the esactine, but rarely exactly oxeate, sometimes tornote, but usually strongylate; 1.91 by 0.023 mm. (Station, Samboangan), 1.68 by 0.026 mm. (Station 186).

II. Microscleres. 2. *Cortical spheraster*, centrum large, actines conical, oxeate, usually from twenty to twenty-four in number, 0.095 mm. (Station, Samboangan), 0.064 mm. (Station 186) in diameter.

3. *Somal chiaster*, centrum variable, sometimes absent, sometimes well marked; actines cylindrical, varying in length, diameter, and number, terminally tylote; 0.0118 mm. in diameter.

4. *Choanosomal aster*, very variable, actines slender, straight or curved, conical, oxeate, irregularly spined, or cladose, dichotomising irregularly, once or oftener; the length of a single actine 0.0276 mm.; centrum small or absent.

*Colour*.—Greyish-white in spirits; on upper surface light ruddy-brown (E. P. W.).

*Habitat*.—Station 186, Flinders Passage, September 18, 1874; lat. 10° 30' S., long. 142° 18' E.; depth, 8 fathoms; bottom, coral mud. Dredged. Samboangan.

South-east of Mahé, Seychelles Islands, inner margin of a coral reef; August 1867 (E. P. W.).