

without spicules, at other times with numerous transparent glassy, fusiform, often spiny spicules, or with irregular scale-like spicules; sometimes the spicules are in two layers. Polyps; large, prominent, inserted on the axis either at right angles or obliquely; covered with spicules, variously arranged; tentacles retractile, sometimes only imperfectly so.

1. Strophogorginæ.—Simple unbranched axis.
2. Chrysogorginæ.—Branched axis.

Subfamily 1. STROPHOGORGINÆ.

Colony unbranched. The axis consists of a simple, calcareous, often brittle stem, springing from a number of root-like processes; sometimes erect, rigid, round; sometimes trailing. The cœnenchyma; in some extremely thin, allowing the iridescent axis to be seen through it, and furnished with few spicules; at other times it is thick and membranous, with numerous spicules. Polyps; prominent and arranged in a uniserial manner on the axis. The tentacles are retractile, forming by their basal portions quasi-opercular coverings. The polyp bodies are covered with spicules, which are often arranged towards the apices of the polyps in eight rows, eventually becoming smaller and then being lost on the extremities of the dorsal surface of the tentacles.

The spicules are translucent glass-like spindles or scales of irregular form; the spindles are sometimes smooth; sometimes with roughened edges.

Genus *Strophogorgia*,¹ Perceval Wright.

Strophogorgia, Perceval Wright, Narr. Chall. Exp., vol. i. pt. ii. p. 691, 1885.

Colony unbranched; axis calcareous, erect or creeping; iridescent. Base where observed, calcareous, divided into diverging hard and brittle root-like structures for anchoring the colony in the mud.

The polyps are prominent and arranged in a uniserial manner on the axis, either stalked or sessile. The cœnenchyma varies in thickness, being sometimes very thin, with few spicules; or membranous, with numerous spicules.

Four species are found in the collection.

1. *Strophogorgia petersi*, n. sp. (Pl. II. figs. 1, 1a; Pl. VA. fig. 1).

Colony simple, unbranched. Axis calcareous, brittle, in some specimens exceeding 6 dm. in length; the basal portions with numerous, broad, rhizome-like processes, from 3 mm. in diameter at the base to less than 1 mm. at their apices.

¹ *στροφόρος, Γοργύλη.*