

6. *Dasygorgia squarrosa*, n. sp. (Pl. V. fig. 4).

The slender, slightly bent stem bears only a few branches, which arise from four sides at considerable distances from one another, and give off a few twigs at oblique angles. The ramification takes place in several planes. The axis is dark brown, horny, brittle. The polyps are placed far from one another, and stand up perpendicularly from the twigs. The spicules are smooth spindles, longitudinally placed in the calyx, and oval or irregular discs with finely toothed edges, which form the deeper layer.

Of this species there are only a fragment, 70 mm. in length, and several separated twigs, which, however, are sufficient to distinguish the form as a distinct species.

The polyp axis has, to judge from the larger fragment, a characteristic rugose appearance. The main stem is thin, its diameter at the beginning being 1 mm. It appears slightly bent in its course, and the angular bendings at the points whence the branches arise are scarcely visible. The branches come off from the stem at considerable vertical intervals, and are so given off that the fourth branch always stands over the first. Accordingly the points of origin of the branches form long spirals, whose height, from one corresponding branch to another, reaches 39 mm., the vertical distance of one branch from the next following it being 8 to 10 mm. At the origin of the twigs, which arise far from one another, the branches show a strong angular bending, and the twigs form obtuse angles with them. From the twigs arise simple lateral twigs, at obtuse angles.

The bending of the branches and of the outgoing twigs takes place in different planes, sometimes horizontal, sometimes perpendicular to the stem.

The polyps are cup-shaped, mostly somewhat constricted above the base and expanded towards the mouth opening. They are scattered far apart on the stem and branches. There is one polyp to each node on the stem, usually one or two on each node of a branch or twig. The axis is horny, stiff, slightly elastic, and maintains this character right to the end of the twigs. The colour is dark brown, shining on the surface, feebly iridescent.

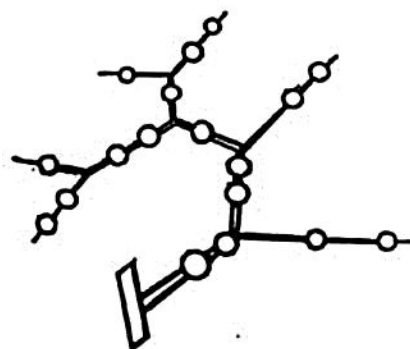


FIG. 5.—Ramification of *Dasygorgia squarrosa*, n. sp.

In the thin, transparent coenenchyma, and in the polyps, the spicules form a superficial layer of smooth spindles, which lie close together, and in the polyps are placed longitudinally. Frequently they are somewhat bent, and generally blunted at one end. Their length to breadth in mm. reaches 0.33-0.06; 0.33-0.04; 0.03-0.04; 0.44-0.067; 0.35-0.04.

Those of the inner layer are flat, oval, smooth scales, or lancet-shaped to spindle-shaped bodies, which are united together by toothed edges. Sometimes two to four