

polyps than in the foregoing species. They are longish plates, with very strongly toothed edges and prickly surfaces. Their length to breadth in mm. reaches 0·28-0·1; 0·17-0·05; 0·13-0·05. In the calyx there are transversely placed plates, with sharp, bent, sometimes branched teeth on the edge, which interlock closely on opposite sides. Height to breadth in mm.—0·1-0·16; 0·12-0·2; 0·07-0·2. The calices have hence a roughly prickly surface.

This species leads the way to *Mopsea* through the formation of its axis and spicules.

Habitat.—Kerguelen Island; depth, 10 to 80 fathoms.

Genus 2. *Mopsea*, Lamouroux.

Mopsea, Lamx., Hist. des Polyp. corall. flexibles, p. 465, Caen, 1816.

Colony branched, generally in one plane. The cœnenchyma is relatively thick, transparent only on the lowest part of the stem. The polyps are closely crowded on the stem and branches in short ascending spirals, so that at times they appear to form whorls. They are club-shaped and directed obliquely inwards towards the branches. The tentacles are not retractile, but in repose bend themselves together inwards over the oral region. The axis consists of short calcareous and horny joints. The branches originate with a horny joint from the calcareous joint of the stem, but many arise so near to the edge of the calcareous joint that, owing to their growth in thickness, the horny joint of the branch comes into contact with that of the stem and the branch appears to arise from the horny joint. The spicules of the cœnenchyma are finely spined, unsymmetrical scales, which are strongly toothed at the edge, where the teeth of adjacent plates interlock. In the polyps the plates are scale-like, placed peripherally, and cover the polyp in the same manner as the tentacles. They have a strong, convex curvature on the surface, which corresponds to the arching of the body of the polyp, and sharp thorns on the outer surface.

The genus *Mopsea* was first founded by Lamouroux.¹ His diagnosis is:—"Polypier dendroïde, à rameaux pinnés, écorce mince, adhérente, couverte de mamelons très-petits, allongés, recourbés du côté de la tige, épars ou subverticillés." To this genus he refers *Mopsea verticillata* = *Mopsea encrinula* (Ehren.), and *Mopsea dichotoma* (Linn.). For these two also the diagnosis is quite correct. Ehrenberg (Corallenthiere d. rothen Meeres) adopted the genus, but modified the diagnosis in such a way that he set forth as the most important character the origin of the branches from the horny joints. This led him to refer to the genus a Melithæidean, *Mopsella erythraea*. Milne-Edwards (Hist. Nat. des Corall.) follows the precedent of Ehrenberg. Thenceforth the position of the genus *Mopsea* became greatly involved. Gray wrongly identified a Melithæidean with *Mopsea dichotoma*, Lamx., for which he creates a new genus, *Mopsella*, while he will

¹ Loc. cit.