

Genus 4. *Muriceides*, n. gen.

In this genus the colony is erect, slightly branched, with a thin cœnenchyma on which the large upright polyps rise at considerable intervals; the basal portion of their tentacular coronet is armed with strong spicules, and when in repose it is folded from about midway over the oral disc, its base forming a somewhat lofty operculum. There is also a ring-shaped colleret of spicules. The calycine spicules are irregularly placed, and here, as in the cœnenchyma, their terminal points project often as short rough needles.

The axis is horny and flexible. The only species at present known has a bifurcate stem, which arises from a flat basal expansion, growing on foreign bodies. It divides speedily into two forked branches, which are thickened at the apices into club-like forms. The cœnenchyma is thin and prickly, the latter owing to the numerous projecting points of the spicules.

The polyps stand at long intervals from one another; they are longer than broad, cylindrical, or bluntly conical, and with an elevated tentacular operculum, which seems to spring from the colleret. The spicules are in part spiny, in part flat, and often branched; "Stachelplatten" are also met with, with one termination pointed and the other broad, and with two or three spiny prominences. There are also curved spicules, with spiny and often branched prominences on their curvatures.

This genus comes between *Paramuricea* and *Clematissa*. The form of its spicules corresponds to that of those of *Paramuricea*, while the irregular arrangement of these on the wall of the polyps corresponds to that met with in *Clematissa*.

*Muriceides fragilis*, n. sp. (Pl. XXII. fig. 5; Pl. XXV. fig. 1).

In this species the short stem arises from a flat expansion of the basal portion, with a diameter of 1 mm.; at an elevation of 64 mm. it gives off a lateral twig, which is as thick as the main axis and is 80 mm. long; at its apex it is a little thickened. The cœnenchyma is rough, thin, though not transparent. The cylindrical, elongated polyps arise from the basal portion of the stem in isolated patches, and for an extent of about 11 mm. polyps are found; on the rest of the stem they are very few in number; they are in greater numbers on the branches, though even here at long intervals, and arising chiefly from one side.

The terminal portion of the branch is occupied by three polyps rising in same plane; none of which however form the apex. The calyces arise perpendicularly from the stem and branches; they are cylindrical or bluntly conical, 2 to 3 mm. high, with a diameter at the basal portion of 2 mm.

The tentacular operculum, which is 1.5 mm. high, is placed on a colleret of spicules.