

spicules of the coenenchyma are four-rayed stars, and curved, broad spindles with spiny prominences, flattened, doubly pointed, curved, and giving off longish spines from the convex side; these measure, length by breadth, 0·21–0·08; 0·12–0·1; 0·10–0·06 mm.

The polyps are closely armed with broad spiny discoid spicules, generally triangular in form, with simple or branched lateral prominences. Length by breadth 0·15–0·05; 0·12–0·1; 0·13–0·12; 0·19–0·15 mm. Of the eight-rayed opercular covering, which closes in the calyx and corresponds to the basal portions of the tentacles, each ray consists of a base formed by a curved, spiny, and horizontally placed spicule of 0·15 mm. in length; upon this are placed two broad spicules, converging upwards, of 0·2 mm. in length; between these there is a fourth spicule laid down; if the lateral spicules are very broad, then this intermediate one is but short and thin; if otherwise it may extend to the tip of the opercular region. The axis is horny, flexible, elastic, longitudinally striate, in the thicker portions of a dark brown; in the thinner of a light-yellow colour. The colour of the colony in spirits is brownish.

Habitat.—Station 176, between the Fiji Islands and the New Hebrides; depth, 145 fathoms; bottom, Globigerina ooze.

Genus 7. *Echinomuricea*, Verrill.

Echinomuricea, Verrill, Proc. Essex Inst., vol. vi. p. 45; Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts, vol. xlvii. p. 285, 1869.

Verrill, in 1869 (*loc. cit.*), established this genus for a Gorgonid from the Chinese Sea, which had already been briefly described by Stimpson, in 1855, as *Nephthya coccinea*. According to Verrill, the chief characteristic of this genus rests in the verrucæ being surrounded, at their base, by numerous very long, stout, thorny, and branched, spine-like spicules, which are crowded and somewhat imbricated, not placed in whorls.

The then only known species was *Echinomuricea coccinea* (Stimpson). A second species, *Echinomuricea indomalaccensis*, has been added by Ridley.¹ Ridley gives a very exact description of his new species. Without further emending the diagnosis of the genus, he suggests that *Acanthogorgia grayi*, Johns., and *Acanthogorgia atlantica*, Johns., may be included in this genus, but this is not so, as Verrill has shown under *Paramuricea* that both these species belong to this latter genus.

Echinomuricea indomalaccensis, Ridley (Pl. XXIII. fig. 4; Pl. XXVII. fig. 3).

Echinomuricea indomalaccensis, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," 1881–1882, 1884, p. 336, pl. xxxvi. figs. B–D'; pl. xxxviii. figs. d–d'.

The single specimen of this species in the Challenger collection agrees very well with the description of Ridley; the colony consists of an upright stem, branched in

¹ Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," 1884, p. 336.