The axis is horny, flexible, elastic, brown. The terminal branches are yellowish. The general colour of the colony is a dark coral red.

Habitat.—Torres Strait.

2. *Echinogorgia ramulosa* (Gray) (Pl. XXII. fig. 8; Pl. XXV. fig. 6).

Bovella ramulosa, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. v. p. 407.
Echinogorgia ramulosa, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," p. 339.

Dr. Gray first named this species, which he made the type of his genus *Bovella*, described as "Coral branched, fan-shaped, expanded into an oblong frond, stem simple; branches and branchlets slender, of the same diameter throughout; branches radiating and irregularly furcately divided, with abundance of short branchlets arranged rather pinnately and diverging at nearly right angles, forming a more or less regular network; many of the branchlets, especially the marginal ones, free. Bark furfuraceous, formed of very small soft spicules or thin scales. Polype-cells circular, prominent, with a sunken centre and a furfuraceous surface, placed on all sides of the branchlets and on the internal surface of the branches. Axis continuous, horny, black." The natural affinity of this form was not at all clear from Gray's description, which serves also as the diagnosis of the genus.

Ridley, who (*loc. cit.*) had the opportunity of comparing the supposed type specimen in the British Museum, refers the species to *Echinogorgia*. One specimen in the Challenger collection fairly agrees in its general characters with Dr. Gray's species, so that it is here described under the same specific name.

The species is left in the genus *Echinogorgia*, although it differs in some of its characters from the typical species of this genus. The polyps are more prominent than in any of the known species; further, their distribution on the stem and the branches is peculiar, while they are well developed on one surface of the stem; on the other, the plain cœnenchyma is alone met with. Of the spicules, the one-sided spiny spindles and discs predominate, arranged in the cœnenchyma like a pavement; by which fact this species may be distinguished from *Echinogorgia flabellum*, to which species Ridley would apparently unite it. The stem, which is upright, is richly branched in one plane, expanded into a cup-shaped form, but with free branches and twigs. The whole colony reaches to a height of 125 mm., with a breadth of 160 mm. The principal stem is a little bent, almost at its base, to the one side, and immediately gives off, on both sides, smaller and larger branches, alternating at an angle of 45°. The length of the principal stem is 80 mm., with a diameter of 4 mm. at the base; that of the branches 60 to 100 mm., with a basal diameter of 3 mm. The branches give off twigs in a similar manner to the principal stem, at angles of 45°, which have lateral branches, terminating with slight thickenings. The last free branches have a length of 10 to 16 mm., with a