

Verrill characterises the section, "species which have a rather thin coenenchyma, filled with long spindles; with low subconical verrucæ arising from between the large spicula and usually standing at right angles to the surface, and covered with much smaller and shorter spindles." He places in it *Muricea flexuosa*, Köll., *Muricea nitida*, Köll., *Muricea humosa*, Köll., *Muricea tuberculata*, Köll., here also belongs *Muricea umbraticoides*, Stdr.

1. *Muricella tenera*, Ridley.

*Muricella tenera*, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," 1884, p. 335, pl. xxxvi. figs. E, E', e, e'.

One specimen in the Challenger collection agrees well with Ridley's description, the few differences to be noticed being doubtless owing to our specimen being very well preserved in spirits. The colony is erect, spreading; branches either simple or at a little distance from the stem becoming irregularly pinnate, arising in one plane. Polyps in two rows, on the front or side of the main stem or branches; the termination of the branches with two polyps opposite one another, giving a triangular appearance to the apex; the axis of growth of the main stem or branches is truly terminal, and as it elongates, the polyps become alternate. In the Challenger specimen, apparently only a fragment, the main stem is 70 mm. high; the principal branches extending to a length of 65 mm. Diameter of the main stem 3 mm., and the same for the principal branches. The large polyps, well figured by Ridley, are upright, shaped like a truncated cone, whose margins are produced into eight triangular flaps. The oral region is protected by a covering, formed out of the basal portions of the tentacles, which contain spicules. In the figure given by Ridley, the body is represented as surrounded by spicules, which extend the whole length of the calyx, and the tips of which form the margin; in the present specimen, the spicules are arranged round the polyp, in many rows, from the base to the above-described margin. Some may object to the form being placed under *Muricella*, and may think it has a closer affinity to *Anthogorgia*, Verrill. Dr. Coppinger's specimens were found at Port Mollé, Queensland.

*Habitat*.—Station 192, off the Ki Islands, south of Papua; depth, 140 fathoms.

2. *Muricella umbraticoides*, Studer.

*Muricella umbraticoides*, Studer, Monatsber. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1878, p. 650, pl. iii. fig. 16.

The small-sized axis of this species is symmetrically branched in one plane, and is about 75 mm. high. Ridley, who received the species from Port Curtis and Port Mollé, thinks the description given by Studer of the spicules is not quite exact; he says "the 'halbseitig warzig' character of the spicules appears hardly to exist, and the tubercles should be rough and more distinct from each other than his otherwise good