

The main axis is 4 mm. in diameter at its base, narrowing to 2.5 mm. at its termination. The diameter of the branches at their origin is 3 mm., and they taper gradually to a diameter of 2 mm. at their tips. In the second specimen, which has been torn from its attachment, the third and fourth branches give off also smaller twigs, and in the case of the third branch the first twig given off again ramifies. The whole colony is larger than in the other specimen, the basal diameter of the main axis being 5 mm., and its length is at least 34 cm. The origin of the branches at the main stem is in several instances enlarged. The axis and branches are cylindrical.

The verrucæ are numerous, and closely but irregularly packed on the stem and branches, they are very slightly elevated; the polyps are completely retractile within them. In the larger specimen the verrucæ are more distinctly elevated. The distance from centre to centre of the verrucæ is from 0.5 to 1 mm. The foliar expansions of the peculiar club-shaped spicules stand out, forming a margin to the verrucæ.

The polyps are completely retractile, the tentacles being first withdrawn slightly inwards and then the whole polyp body is retracted; the walls of the verrucæ are also capable of contraction; the bodies of the polyps are destitute of spicules, but there is a well-developed collar of needle-shaped spicules around the base of the tentacles, and two curved, needle-shaped spicules run from this along the outer basal portion of each tentacle; between which there is generally a third.

The cœnenchyma is comparatively thin and somewhat friable, its outer portion is rough, and consists of the large, club-shaped spicules, and beneath these are simple or branched, spiny spindles and tri- and quadriradiate spiny forms.

The spicules are as follows:—The foliaceous clubs have a short, thick neck, from which project downwards one, two, or three spiny arms, often these are much branched; the foliaceous portions are very irregular in outline, thicker where they rise from the neck portion, they soon narrow to an edge, which varies from a semioval to a triangular form. The edges are sometimes smooth, sometimes jagged; on the constricted portion tubercles occur in the older forms. They measure 0.6–0.3; 0.6–0.4; 0.4–0.56; 0.36–0.4; 0.26–0.22 mm. The spiny spindles are sometimes simple, at other times branched. They measure 0.6–0.1; 0.3–0.1; 0.2–0.06; 0.18–0.04 mm. The branching spiny spindles gradually merge into irregular tri- and sexradiate forms, measuring across the arms 0.46–0.26; 0.36–0.2; 0.3–0.2; 0.2–0.2 mm. In the tentacles or at their base the curved spicules measure from tip to tip 0.2 mm., with a diameter to each arm of 0.04 mm. The straight spicules measure 0.3–0.04; 0.2–0.04 mm.

The general colour of the colony is a deep brownish-red; the polyps being of a pale yellow. The axis is tough, flexible, of a dark black colour. The species had been selected for figuring (1883) as new, but seems to be merely a variety of *Plexauroides pralonga* (Ridley).

*Habitat.*—Station 186, Cape York; depth, 8 fathoms; bottom, coral sand.