

20 mm. The first branch is given off at a height on the stem of 30 mm.; at about 45 mm. in height the main stem seems to bifurcate, and each of the subdivisions gives origin to a series of smaller branches, which again and again subdivide. The terminal twigs are very long and slender (200 mm.).

The axis is horny but brittle. The cœnenchyma is moderately thick. There is a spiral marking on the lower portion of the stem which ramifies along and is lost in the branches.

The polyps are arranged on the main stem in a somewhat uregular manner, but on the smaller wire-like branches they are placed in opposite rows. The polyps are completely retractile and when closed the verrucæ appear but slightly elevated.

The warty spindles of the cœnenchyma measure 0·12-0·04; 0·1-0·04; 0·08-0·04; mm. The few quadriradiate forms are 0·06-0·06 mm.; those of the polyps 0·08-0·02; 0·06-0·02 mm.

The colour in spirits is a pale yellow blue.

*Habitat.*—Torres Strait.

This species in several respects resembles *Leptogorgia australiensis*, Ridley.

#### Genus *Gorgonia*, Verrill.

We agree with Verrill<sup>1</sup> in restricting this genus to those species of Gorgonids having small double spindles along with small bracket-shaped or crescent-shaped spicules; these latter corresponding to those called "Klammern" by Kölliker;<sup>2</sup> which very characteristic form has been well called "scaphoid" by Saville Kent,<sup>3</sup> on account of the resemblance to a small canoe with men in it.

This genus corresponds to the second division of Kölliker's *Gorgonia*.

#### *Gorgonia flabellum*, Linn.

Several specimens of this well-known species were taken at moderate depths off the Bermudas.

#### Family VII. GORGONELLIDÆ.

*Gorgonellacæ*, Valenciennes, Comptes rendus, t. xli. p. 14.

„ Milne-Edwards, Hist. Nat. des Coralliaires, t. i. p. 182.

„ Kölliker (*pars*), Icones Histiol., p. 140.

We adopt this family in the sense of Kölliker's division D. of the subfamily I. Gorgoninæ, only excluding the genus *Riisea*, D. et M. (see *antea*, p. 24), which is the same as *Herophile*, Steenstrup, which latter name should have the priority.

<sup>1</sup> *Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts*, vol. xlviii. p. 424, 1869.

<sup>2</sup> *Icones Histiol.*, Abth. ii. p. 139, 1865.

<sup>3</sup> *Monthly Micr. Journ.*, 1870, p. 90.