Subfamily 2. SPONGIODERMINÆ.

Genus *Iciligorgia*, Duchassaing, *emend.* Ridley.

? Iciligorgia, Duchassaing, Revue des Zoophytes des Antilles, p. 12, 1870.
Iciligorgia (emend.), Ridley, Rep. Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," p. 351, 1884.

In Ridley's account of the Alcyonaria found during the voyage of H.M.S. "Alert" in the Indo-Pacific Oceans, he adopts Duchassaing's genus *Iciligorgia* for a species found in Torres Strait. A specimen of Ridley's species (*Iciligorgia orientalis*) is in the Challenger collection from the same locality, but it seems to us a matter of doubt whether this species be rightly referred to Duchassaing's genus, which was made for a species (*Iciligorgia schrammi*) found at Guadaloupe.

Duchassaing's diagnosis is as follows—"Axis mollis, spongiosus, spiculis farctus; cortex tenuis, spiculis aciniformibus formatus; calycibus mammæformibus, obtusis, in utroque latere ramorum uniseriatis. Genus situ Polyporum, axe corticeque interse distinctis, a Briareis recedens, Polypis utroque latere uniseriatis, a Paragorgiis diagnoscitur."

To this is added that the "circulatory canals" are as in *Briarea* and that the *Gorgonia* (*Titanideum*, Verrill, 1864) *suberosa* of Ellis is closely allied thereto.

No specimen of this genus exists in the museum at Turin, but we think it better to accept the genus, as emended by Ridley, leaving it to future investigations to determine the question as to whether it is identical or not with that described by Duchassaing.

Iciligorgia orientalis, Ridley (Pl. XXX. fig. 2).

Iciligorgia orientalis, Ridley, *loc. cit.*, p. 351, pl. xxxvii. figs. F, F"; pl. xxxviii. fig. *e*.

The specimen in the collection consists of what appears to be but a portion of a colony. What seems to be its main axis is about 230 mm. in height, with a basal diameter of 17 mm., tapering in the branches to one of from 2 to 3 mm. The branching is very irregular, though with a decided unilateral tendency. Possibly owing to the strength of the spirits in which the specimen was preserved, the cœnenchyma is somewhat contracted and wrinkled. The main stem is flattened in outline, being 17 mm. long by 8 mm. wide, but the terminal tips of some of the branches are nearly circular.

The polyps are found scattered irregularly over the surface of the stem and branches, sometimes solitary, and very slightly prominent; at other times and more frequently in narrow clefts of the cœnenchyma, with lip-like edges, between which the polyps are completely retractile; these are the "knife-like" edges of Ridley, but in the Challenger specimen they are not exclusively confined to the lateral margins of the branches; sometimes even three such wavy, linear slits will be found on a single branch.