The spicules have been well described by Ridley. The longitudinal canals form a well-marked boundary between the axial portion of the stem and the cœnenchyma.

The colour in spirits is a creamy yellow; when dry the colony is very brittle.

Habitat.—Torres Strait.

Family II. SCLEROGORGIADÆ.

Sclerogorgiaceæ, Kölliker, Icones Histiologicæ, Abth. ii. p. 142.

Kölliker established the subfamily Sclerogorgiaceæ as a subfamily of Gorgonidæ (*loc. cit.*), to receive the species *Gorgonia suberosa*, Pallas, Esper, and *Gorgonia verriculata*, Esper. He characterised it as consisting of "Gorgonids with unjointed axes, composed of a horny substance and agglutinated calcareous spicules. Cœnenchyma as in *Gorgonia*." For the genus he proposed the name *Sclerogorgia*, but Dr. Gray had some years previously made the genus *Suberogorgia*[1] for the first mentioned of Esper's species. While retaining Kölliker's expressive name for the larger group, we feel compelled to adopt Gray's generic appellation.

This subfamily of Kölliker's forms our second family of this section. In it the central axis, even to the very summit of the youngest branches, is found to consist of long spindle-shaped spicules, which are but feebly calcareous and which become intercalated and agglutinated together, forming an elastic axis, which effervesces, but loses little of its bulk under acids; the outer layers of the spicules being perhaps more easily affected than the innermost ones, but a large proportion of horny material remains after prolonged soaking in acid. The nutrient canals are on either side of the axis, forming a mesh with the canals in the cœnenchyma. The polyps are placed on the sides of the stem and branches, either with or without verrucæ. The cœnenchyma is moderately thin, the spicules being either large spindles, warty double spindles or double wheels. The polyp spicules are small warty spindles. The polyps are completely retractile.

Genus *Suberogorgia*, Gray, *emend.*

Suberogorgia, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1857, p. 159.
Pterogorgia and *Rhipidogorgia* (*pars*), Milne-Edwards, Hist. Nat. des Coralliaires, t. i. p. 167.
Pterogorgia, Dana (*pars*), Zooph., p. 647.
Sclerogorgia, Kölliker, Icones Histiologicæ, Abth. ii. p. 142.
" Studer, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1878, p. 666.
Suberogorgia, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," p. 349.
Rhipidella, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. v. p. 407.

Dr. Gray's description of this genus is as follows:—"Coral furcately branched, rather compressed, with a continued sunken groove up the middle of each side. Cell rather

[1] *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1857, p. 159.