

prominent, convex, in two or three rather irregular series up each edge. Axis pale brown, wart-like, formed of rather loosely concentric fibrous laminæ, containing a large quantity of calcareous matter, and effervescing with muriatic acid. The bark when dry is rather thin, smooth, hard and granular within" (*loc. cit.*, p. 159).

To this Kölliker, while changing the generic name to *Sclerogorgia*, adds—"The spicules of the cœnenchyma are thickly warted spindles, yellow or colourless, of from 0.10 to 0.16 mm. in length, besides some simple forms which in *Sclerogorgia verriculata* appear as birotate spicules, with the edges of the wheels toothed. The polyp spicules, small warty spindles arranged as usual."

Dr. Gray's generic appellation, however feebly diagnosed, has without doubt the priority. The two species figured and described by Esper are in the Challenger collection; a third species is referred to by Kölliker, without any description or locality given, under the name of *Sclerogorgia patula* (Ellis), as from the Vienna Museum. Ellis's species, which he received preserved in spirits, was found in the Mediterranean and sent to him by the celebrated Donati. It is a branched and partly pinnate form of a very bright red colour; but it would be difficult from the short description to recognise the species.

A fourth species from Japan, here described as new, requires a slight emendation of the genus, the diagnosis of which may stand as follows; the peculiar structure of the axes, so well described by Kölliker, we call sclerogorgic.

Colony branched, branches either simple or anastomosing. Central axis of stem and branches "sclerogorgic," nutrient canals on either side of axis; cœnenchyma thin, friable. Polyps completely retractile, with or without verrucæ. Spicules spindles, double spindles, spiny or warty; birotate, or in the polyps needle-shaped.

The following species of this genus were found during the voyage of the Challenger:—

### 1. *Suberogorgia suberosa* (Pallas).

*Gorgonia suberosa*, Pallas, Elench. Zooph., p. 191.

" " Esper, Fortsetz. der Pflanzenthier, p. 170 (not *Gorgonia suberosa*, Ellis and Solander).

*Suberogorgia suberosa*, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1857, p. 159.

*Sclerogorgia suberosa*, Kölliker, Icones Histiologicæ, p. 142, 1865.

*Suberogorgia suberosa*, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," p. 349.

A small specimen of this species was taken in a dredging made off the Admiralty Islands at a depth of between 16 and 25 fathoms. The geographical distribution of this species is interesting. Pallas and Esper give the coasts of Western Africa and the West Indies as the localities known to them; Studer found it in the Mermaid Straits, Dampier Archipelago, and in North-west Australia (Indian Ocean); Dr. Coppinger (*vide*