

Genus *Eunephthya*, Verrill.

Eunephthya, Verrill, Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts., vol. xlvii. p. 284, 1869; Proc. Essex Inst., vol. vi. p. 80, 1869.

"Verrucæ prominent and covered with rough thorny, club-shaped or branched spicula, with the ends projecting from the surface."

Verrill formed this genus, with the above diagnosis, in the year 1869 for the northern *Alcyonium glomeratum*, Lütke., and for *Nephthya thyrsoidea*, Verrill, from the Cape of Good Hope, described by him in 1866.¹ The former name was later on changed into that of *Eunephthya lütkeni*, Verrill and Marenzeller, the latter into *Eunephthya thyrsoides*, Verrill. Verrill also counts as a third species the *Nephthya nigra*, Pourt., discovered by Pourtalès at a depth of 120 to 152 fathoms in the Strait of Florida,² and names it *Eunephthya nigra*.³

The representatives of the genus *Eunephthya* may be generally characterised as branched Nephthyidæ of the habit of *Nephthya*, with the relatively large, club-shaped and non-retractile polyps thickly crowded together on the branches. In most species the polyps have the power of bending in towards the stem, in which condition they are always found in dead specimens.

In some species the polyps exhibit eight longitudinal markings on the surface. The tentacles are armed with spicules, and in repose and death are simply folded together over the mouth. The spicules are spindles, provided with branching spines and processes, spinose clubs, or branched spicules whose spines project beyond the surface of the outer coating, and give to the latter a rough surface.

The three hitherto known species of the genus come from temperate or cold seas, or from deep water in the warm zone.

The Challenger collection contains one specimen, which undoubtedly belongs to this genus, and it likewise comes from the temperate zone.

Eunephthya fusca, n. sp. (Pl. XXXVI. figs. 1a, 1b).

From a broad, elevated base rises a straight, upright stem, gradually diminishing in size upwards. After a short distance branches come off from the stem on all sides, bearing small twigs. On these, and on the apices of the branches, are placed the polyps to the number of three to seven. The polyps are large, and cover the branches and twigs completely, so that on a superficial view the stem appears to be surrounded with projecting lobes, in which the polyps are placed one above the other like roof-tiles. The

¹ Proc. Essex Inst., vol. iv. p. 148.

² Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., 1868.

³ Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. xi. p. 44, 1883.