

armed with pointed spines; size, 0.5 by 0.05; 0.25 by 0.04 mm. In the tentacles are found bent spicules armed with sharp spines, measuring 0.2 by 0.04 mm.

The canals in the stems and branches are wide and bounded by thin walls; in the more slender branches four main canals may be distinguished and in the terminal spikes two.

The colour of the stem is yellow, of the polyp heads greyish-white in spirit.

*Habitat*.—Zebu Reef, Philippine Islands.

*Spongodes nephthymiformis*, n. sp. (Pl. XXXVIA. figs. 1a, 1b).

The barren upright stem gives off branches at various heights, which may again bear lateral branches. All these are divided at the end into small, short, conical twigs, which are spike-like, and covered with little polyp heads. The latter are but slightly overtopped by the fine bundle of spicules which they carry.

The entire habit of the colony recalls much more that of *Nephtya* than that of *Spongodes*, and this impression is strengthened by the slight development of the spicules surmounting the little heads, whence the colony does not appear so prickly as other species.

The species is most closely related to *Spongodes savignyi*, Ehrenberg, but in that species the little polyp heads and also the spicules are larger and more prominent. The species must be referred to the genus *Spongodes*, because the polyps are placed sideways within a bundle of spicules, although these only project slightly. The main stem is 60 mm. high and 16 mm. thick at the base; it gives off branches at different heights, which measure 12 to 20 mm. in length, 6 to 8 mm. in diameter. In one specimen there arise from a common basal expansion smaller branched additional stems besides the main stem. Both stem and branches are divided at the end into a number of spike-like twigs, covered with small polyp heads. These little spikes are obtusely conical or lobose, and sometimes give off small lateral spikelets. Their length reaches 5 to 8 mm., with a diameter of 3 mm. The polyp heads are small, having a maximum size of 1 mm.

Externally the stem and branches are tough and leathery; they are thickly beset with rough, spindle-shaped, calcareous spicules, which are closely packed and cross one another, leaving no intervals. The spicules are often bent and covered with sharp spines. Their length reaches 1.1 mm., with a thickness of 0.05 mm.

The little polyp heads are supported by a bundle of broad spicules, which converge  $\Lambda$ -like to the number of six to eight. Their points project beyond the head, which is placed horizontally. They are slightly bent into the shape of a letter *f*, or straight, and they bear sharp-pointed spines. They reach 1.48 mm. in length and 0.08 mm. in breadth. At the base of the head lie spiny spindles, measuring 0.7 by 0.05 mm., which are bent parallel to the supporting spicules. The remaining spicules of the head lie