

continued into the peduncle of the head, longitudinally arranged. Some of them are very long and strong, and project beyond the laterally placed head. They are long spindles, thickly covered with sharp spines; sometimes straight and sometimes curved into somewhat the shape of the letter *f*. They measure 1.3 by 0.08 mm.; 0.8 by 0.05 mm.; 2.5 by 0.19 mm. The largest spicules reach 3 mm.

At the base of the polyp head rise up, from amongst the thickly placed, spiny, peripheral spindles, eight long spicules, which are longitudinally placed and whose apices project beyond the mouth and the bases of the tentacles, forming eight rays around the oral region. These are slender and straightly pointed at the free end, while their lower quarter is bent at an angle, their length reaches 0.8 mm., the diameter 0.05 mm. The remaining spicules of the head measure 0.7 by 0.06 mm. and less.

The colour of the stem and branches is yellowish-white. The polyp heads, and, in part, the entire lobules are flesh-coloured; the spicules are red, or half red and half colourless; individual lobules are also white.

In habit the species comes nearest to *Spongodes studeri*, Ridley.

Habitat.—Tahiti; depth, 30 to 70 fathoms.

β. Capitatae.—No specimen in the Challenger collection.

γ. Umbellatae.—The bundles of the polyps are always placed at the end of the twigs on the finely ramified branches, which form an umbel.

Spongodes spinosa, Gray.

Spongodes spinosa, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1862, p. 27, pl. iv. figs. 5-7; nec *Spongodes spinosa*, Studer, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1878, p. 636.

Gray characterises the species as follows:—"The coral whitish, forming roundish spinose masses; the stem thick, slightly branched, with very numerous short branchlets; the spicules white, very unequal, some large and thick; the terminal branchlet furnished on the inner upper edge, with curved (in spirals) partly retracted purple polypes, which are surmounted and protected by the large opaque-white spicules of the branchlets." This description is of such a general nature that it can be applied to a large number of species, but it is sufficient to establish the difference from the only other species described from this group. The figures (*loc. cit.*, pl. iv. figs. 5-7) show a thick stem with no basal portion. From this are given off twigs, terminating in bundles of polyps. The polyp heads are surmounted by great white spicules and also show red spicules placed radially around the base of the head.