rosy-red, of the polyp heads white. The prominence of the twigs causes the entire colony to appear externally of a rosy-red colour.

Habitat.—Torres Strait; depth, 8 to 11 fathoms.

C. *Divaricatæ.*

The polyps on the terminal twigs are separated from one another by longer or shorter distances. No sharp division between this and the preceding division is possible, as will be seen from the foregoing observations. In the *Divaricatæ* the individual polyps are, however, completely separated from one another, and hence are easily distinguishable. Yet even in this group individual twigs occur in which two or more polyps have grown together up to the tentacle-bearing heads. A generic distinction between the two groups, such as Gray proposed, is on this account impossible.

a. Umbelliferæ.—The polyp heads are arranged in umbels.

Spongodes coronata, n. sp. (Pl. XXXVIE. figs. 2*a*, 2*b*).

A very short barren trunk divides after a short course into two divergent branches. These are thickly covered with lateral branches coming off from them at right angles, which, after further ramification, bear umbels of polyps. In the umbels the individual polyps are free for a short space, and diverge from one another. The barren trunk is very short, 9 mm. high and 15 mm. thick; in spirits of wine it is soft and much shrivelled and folded. From it come off two thick, diverging branches, 45 to 54 mm. in length, which are covered with polyp-bearing twigs. The height of the entire colony reaches in one specimen 45 mm., with a breadth of 71 mm.; in a second the height is 50 mm. and the breadth 90 mm. The secondary branches come off all around the branches and are thickly covered with polyp-bearing twigs, so that from the outside only umbels of polyps are visible, which completely hide the ramifications. The secondary branches are short, measuring about 12 mm. in length, and come off at right angles; their ramifications take place as follows:—Each one, after a short course of about 5 mm., divides into a number of divergent twigs which finally break up into the polyp-bearing terminal twigs, and these last form together an umbel. All the twigs belonging to one secondary branch form a primary umbel, which may be separated from that of the adjacent secondary branch by a small interspace. The secondary twigs bear on an average eight polyps, whose short peduncles are separated from one another and diverge at acute angles.

The free portion of each polyp is 1·5 to 2 mm. long, and the head is 0·8 to 1 mm. in