

few in number (generally four) and wide; in the stem they are narrower and more numerous, and separated from one another by thick walls.

This genus comes nearest to *Siphonogorgia*, K lliker, but is essentially distinguished by the fact that the polyps occur along the entire course of the branches, and are less retractile. The habit of the colony is more suggestive of *Nephthya*.

Chironephthya dipsacea, n. sp. (Pl. XXXVII. figs. 1, 1a).

The colony consists, in the perfect condition, of a tall, straight, ascending stem, whose base spreads over a mass of agglutinated sand. A few branches arise first from the upper third, becoming gradually pointed towards their ends; these come off sparsely and at varying angles, they are partly simple and partly provided with secondary branches. Especially in the lower third of the branch-bearing portion there arise short, flat branches, which, after a short course, radiate into numerous secondary branches, and these may again give off twigs. The terminal portions of the stem, branches, and secondary branches are covered with polyps, which are placed at wide intervals from one another and exhibit a spiral arrangement. Only towards the apices of the twigs are the polyps more thickly placed, at the apex itself there are usually two or three close together. The polyps exhibit a distinct calyx, which is directed obliquely upwards on the branches, and a well-marked tentacular portion. In the branches the canals are wide; at the base of each branch there are four, radially arranged. In the barren stem they are more numerous, up to the number of sixteen; they are of different widths, and arranged radially around a central axis. The thickness of their dividing walls gradually increases from above downwards.

Height of a colony,	130-150 mm.
Height of the barren stem,	90-95 "
Diameter of the stem,10 "
Length of an unramified branch, up to	38 "
Diameter of the same at the base,	4-5 "

The basal portion is present only in one specimen. It forms a flat overgrowth upon a mass of agglutinated sand, which it also surrounds laterally. At the margin it is divided into lobes and stolon-like processes. It passes gradually into the stem, which remains of nearly the same thickness up to the branches. The stem is oval or irregularly angular in transverse section, but generally compressed on one side; its consistence is rigid, feebly flexible and brittle. Its wall is incrustated with closely packed, longitudinally arranged spicules, which lie in two or three layers in the mesoderm, and give to the latter the character of a firm layer around the internal canal-system. At its branch-bearing portion the stem expands somewhat, but gradually diminishes towards the blunt