

sometimes rod-shaped and covered with thick spines, and sometimes spindle-shaped, bearing small warts. They measure 0·33 by 0·05; 0·38 by 0·033; 0·3 by 0·034; 0·38 by 0·08; 0·27 by 0·07 mm. The colour of the entire colony is bright coral-red.

The species may be readily distinguished from *Siphonogorgia mirabilis*, which is the one most nearly related to it, by the large spicules of the cœnenchyma, which are visible even to the unassisted eye.

*Habitat*.—Amboina.

### Family III. ALCYONIDÆ.

*Alcyonidæ*, Verrill, Proc. Essex Inst., vol. iv. p. 348, 1865.

*Alcyoninæ retractiles*, Klunzinger, Die Korallthiere des rothen Meeres, p. 21, 1877.

The polyp colony is fleshy, forming sometimes a simple, at other times a more or less branched, mass, of which there can often be distinguished a basal or stem-like portion, sterile, and a capitular or head portion bearing the polyps.

The thick cœnenchyma surrounds the long polyp tubes, which are interconnected by a system of fine nutrient canals. The polyps are retractile within well-marked depressions in the cœnenchyma.

The polyps are sometimes dimorphic, the autozooids being for the most part sexual, with well-developed tentacles, the siphonozooids being rudimentary, but in some cases (*Anthomastus*) also sexual.

The spicules of the stem or sterile portion, when such exists, are larger, and often different in form from those of the capitular portion. The capitulum, when present, is mushroom-shaped or lobular.

Species of the following genera were found during the voyage:—

*Bellonella*, Gray.

*Alcyonium*, L.

*Sarcophytum*, Lesson.

*Lobophytum*, Marenz.

*Anthomastus*, Verrill.

### Genus *Alcyonium*, Linn.

*Alcyonium*, Linn., Syst. Nat., ed. x. p. 803 (*pars*).

„ Milne-Edwards, Hist. Nat. des Corallinires, t. i. p. 114 (*pars*).

„ Klunzinger, Die Korallthiere des rothen Meeres, p. 21 (*pars*).

We venture, though in opposition to the views of Klunzinger and others, only to include in this genus those fleshy Alcyonids found in the temperate and cold seas, referring those found in the tropics to the genus *Lobularia*.

The genus may be known by the fleshy consistency of the colony, the large size of the polyps, and the spindle-shaped spicules, which are not very densely distributed in the cœnenchyma.