

Here may be placed—

<i>Telesto aurantiaca</i> , Lamx.		<i>Telesto ramulosa</i> , Verrill.
<i>Telesto fruticulosa</i> , Dana.		

Telesto rigida, n. sp. (Pl. XXXVII. fig. 3; Pl. XLII. fig. 9).

The long solitary polyp tubes arise from stolons, which creep over dead coral, &c. The main polyps have lateral polyps which arise more or less at a right angle, and these again may give rise to a third series. The polyp walls are rigid and smooth; the spicules, interlocking with one another, form a continuous layer, thus constituting a fairly solid tube. The colour is an orange red.

The stolons are flat, and overrun dead coral and other foreign bodies. They sometimes end in terminal polyps. The primary polyps attain a height of 10 to 16 mm. with a diameter of from 2 to 3 mm. These are narrow at their bases, widening gradually towards the oral regions. The terminal portion of the polyp is soft and retractile: when retracted, the terminal portion assumes the appearance of an eight-rayed star. The outer polyp wall is smooth.

Individual polyps sometimes lengthen out into axial polyps of 25 mm. in height, and these bear lateral polyps, which arise at irregular intervals. Some of these latter develop buds; but further ramifications do not seem to be developed. The lateral polyps do not differ in form from the main polyps, and are about 10 mm. high and 3 mm. in diameter.

The spicules which are found in the polyp walls are mostly of irregular forms, but are more or less flattened, and elongated in one direction. On either side of these flattened discs more or less deep and even branching dentations are found; on the surface of some blunt projections are seen, and interspaces, which would seem to indicate that they are the result of smaller spicules fused together. These spicules become often so much interlocked that they cannot be separated even after maceration and boiling with caustic potash. Their size and form vary greatly, length and breadth of some being respectively as follows, 0.37 and 0.12; 0.183 and 0.058; 0.083 and 0.043; 0.183 and 0.05; 0.1 and 0.05 mm.

In the retractile portion of the polyps the spicules become more spindle-like and form loose bundles. The tentacles are full of longitudinal bundles of spindle-shaped spicules beset with sharp spines. These have a length and breadth respectively of 0.3 to 0.032; 0.25 to 0.025; 0.283 to 0.028 mm.

The species is distinguished from those allied to it by the form of the spicules and the absence of the usual longitudinal ridges and furrows.

Habitat.—Station 71, west of the Azores; depth, 1675 fathoms; bottom, Globigerina ooze.