

Hydroids belong partly to the Campanulariæ (*Halisiphonia*, Pl. IV. fig. 9), partly to the Tubulariæ (*Stylactella*, Pl. II. figs. 6, 7), partly to a larger Hydroid with annulated tubes, the true position of which I could not make out (*Eudendrium?*, Pl. IV. fig. 4).

Eggs and Larvæ.—Amœboid eggs, with a large clear germinal vesicle and a dark germinal spot (Pl. V. fig. 5, *e*), partly in segmentation, were found scattered in the mesoderm of *Psammophyllum flustraceum* (Pl. IV. fig. 5). The same specimen contained larger dark ovate bodies composed of granular cells, which probably were decomposed or badly-preserved gastrula larvæ, similar in size and form to those of other Spongelidæ.

Genus 7. *Cerelasma*, n. gen.¹

Definition.—Spongelidæ with reticular spherical or tuberoso body, composed of numerous anastomosing branches, each branch supported by a peculiar reticular framework of thin spongin-lamellæ. These, as well as the maltha, enclose numerous xenophya, which are usually enveloped by a spongin-sac.

The genus *Cerelasma* differs from all the Keratosa hitherto described in the peculiar shape of the Keratose skeleton, which is not composed of cylindrical or roundish fibres, but of flat and thin horny lamellæ. These are branched, and the branches unite and form a framework in the most irregular manner. The xenophya possess usually also a saccular envelope of spongin, and are partly enclosed in the maltha, partly in the lamellæ of the framework. This is expanded between the tubular branches of a reticular dark coloured symbion, probably in all cases the hydrorhiza of a symbiotic Hydroid (*Stylactis* or another Spongoxenia).

The peculiar structure of *Cerelasma* may be best understood anatomically, if we compare it with that of a human liver. The reticular system of the hepatic blood-vessels corresponds to that of the symbiotic Spongoxenia, the system of the biliferous canals to that of the canal-system proper of the sponge, the reticular framework of the hepatic glandular cells to that of the maltha full of xenophya, and the supporting framework of the hepatic connective tissue is comparable to that of the Keratose skeletal lamellæ. As in the case of the complex liver structure, the knowledge of the structure of *Cerelasma* is only possible by means of sections through different planes. But the great mass of foreign mineral bodies and siliceous particles crowded in the maltha makes it very difficult to recognise the true structure of this remarkable Spongelid.

The main mass of the body in *Cerelasma* is not formed by the horny framework of the true skeleton, but by the xenophya, which are surrounded by thin horny envelopes, and partly enclosed by the lamellæ. These xenophya or foreign enclosures, which compose the pseudo-skeleton, are in *Cerelasma gyrosphæra* (from Station 271) almost

¹ *Cerelasma* = Horny plate, κέρα, ἔλασμα.