

themselves, are visible to the naked eye. Diameter of pore-areas about 1 mm.; of the pores themselves very variable, averaging about 0·1 mm., but may be much greater.

Skeleton.—(a) *Dermal*; when pieces of the dermal membrane are peeled off from the surface of the sponge, as is easily done, and examined separately, the only true skeleton they possess is seen to consist of rather sparsely scattered tylote spicules; sometimes, however, the styli belonging to the underlying main skeleton project beyond the surface of the sponge, giving to it its irregularly hispid character. (b) *Main*; consisting of a very loose and irregular reticulation of styli, often forming loose fibres which run towards the surface and are crossed more or less at right angles by others.

Spicules.—(a) *Megasclera*; of two kinds. (1) Smooth, stout styli (Pl. XXVII. fig 7), only slightly curved, measuring about 0·65 by 0·025 mm. (2) Tylota (Pl. XXVII. fig. 7a), with straight shaft and an oval head at each end; the head is sometimes very slightly spined at the top, where it may also be slightly flattened. Usually one end of the spicule is a little larger than the other. Size about 0·3 by 0·008 mm. (b) *Microsclera*; one kind only present; viz., large, tridentate isochelæ (Pl. XXVII. fig. 7b), with a slightly curved shaft which is markedly expanded laterally towards each end; length about 0·08 mm. These are plentiful in the dermal membrane and also occur scattered through the deeper tissues of the sponge.

Perhaps the most striking features of this sponge are the great size of the pores and their arrangement in definite pore-areas. These strongly resemble the corresponding structures in *Halichondria forcipis*, Bk., as described and figured by Carter.¹ The species differs markedly from the two preceding ones in the absence of sigmata.

Its spiculation agrees in *kind* with that of *Cribrella hamigera*, Schmidt,² but in that species the styli tend to develop heads, and the spicules throughout are merely the miniatures of those of this species.

Locality.—Station 306A, January 2, 1876; lat. 48° 27' S., long. 74° 30' W.; off the south-west coast of Patagonia; depth, 345 fathoms; bottom, blue mud; bottom temperature, 46°. One specimen.

Myxilla fusca, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XXVII. figs. 11, 11a, 11b).

1886. *Myxilla fusca*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 472.

Sponge massive, amorphous, the largest specimen about 19 mm. in greatest diameter. *Colour* in spirit darkish brown. *Texture* fairly firm and elastic, but rather coarse. *Surface* uneven, in places minutely hispid. *Dermal membrane* adhering firmly to the underlying tissues; thin, granular and pigmented, brown in colour but translucent. *Pores* apparently collected into pore-areas, wherein they reduce the dermal

¹ Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. xiv. p. 246, pl. xiv. fig. 29, a.

² Spong. Adriat. Meer., p. 70, pl. vi. fig. 13.