

The polyps are situated in rows on both sides of the stem and its branches, leaving the whole central portion of these, both front and back, quite free from polyps. Both polyps and tentacles are retractile, the former are lodged within well-marked verrucæ; the tentacles are first infolded and then completely withdrawn. The verrucæ seem to be more prominent towards the summit of the branches, but in some instances it seems evident that when the polyps are completely retracted, the walls of the verrucæ can contract over them, so as to leave the verrucæ not very prominent; the verrucæ measure at their base about 1.5 to 3 mm. in diameter. The apices of the stem and branches do not end in polyps. New polyps arise alongside of and between the old polyps. The nutrient canals surround the horny axis as in *Plexaura*.

The axis is flattened, horny, with a central calcareous core; it is very flexible and tough. In certain portions, on section, calcareous deposits are seen, but these have not the symmetry of those to be met with in *Plexaurella*.

There is a circlet of curved spiny spindles around the base of the tentacles, and smaller spindles, but straight, clothe the dorsal surface of each tentacle; very minute needle-like spicules are found in the tentacles. The spicules measure, the large spindles with rough spines, 0.6–0.1; 0.5–0.1; 0.4–0.1; 0.3–0.08; those with few spines, 0.2–0.02; 0.1–0.08; 0.1–0.02; 0.08–0.02; and the stellate spicules measure 0.2–0.1; 0.14–0.2; 0.12–0.12; 0.1–0.08; 0.1–0.06. Most of the spicules are of an amber colour.

The colour in spirits is that of a dark brick-red.

Habitat.—Banda, in 14 fathoms.

Genus *Callistephanus*, n. gen.

Axis horny, circular, with a calcareous central portion, and in the older portions calcareous particles interspersed; branched, branches arising in the one plane, mostly at right angles to the stem or to one another. Nutrient canals surround the central axis.

Polyps very prominent, the tentacles and bodies retractile within dome-shaped verrucæ, and arising for the most part alternately from the sides of the stem and branches.

The cœnenchyma is thick, granular. The spicules of the cœnenchyma are spiny spindles, clubs, and half-sided warty clubs; those of the base of the polyps are needle-shaped.

Verrill¹ describes a new genus of Gorgonid for a small delicate coral, pure white in spirits, with rather prominent calyces in two alternating rows. This species, *Stenogorgia casta*, externally resembles *Thesea* and *Eunicella*, but in the former the cœnenchyma has a superficial layer of scales, and in the latter it has a regular external covering of club-shaped spicules standing perpendicularly to the axis. In *Swiftia*, which

¹ *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. xi. p. 29.