

ON SOME ALCYONARIANS FROM THE WEST-PACIFIC ISLANDS  
(PALAU, PONAPE AND BONINS)<sup>1)</sup>

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*With 9 Text-figures*

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The Alcyonarian fauna of the tropical West-Pacific region, covering the large area of Micronesia in a wide sense, has previously been scarcely investigated, though a few records concerning the Alcyonacea were noted by MAY (1900) and KÜKENTHAL (1903, 1905).

During my stay at Koror of the Palau Islands as a research associate of the Palao Tropical Biological Station from June 1934 to February 1935 to study the marine fauna inhabiting the coral reef, I was much impressed by the abundance of fleshy Alcyonaceans, covering extensive areas of the reef edges or seaward slopes and the marked fewness of Gorgonaceans with an only exception of a few species of *Melithaea* (= *Melitodes*) and *Junceella*. Owing to having other objects, however, my shore-collecting could not be extended to the Alcyonaria at that time. Fortunately enough, some of the unstudied materials from Micronesia, mainly collected in the Palau Islands, which may be only available as the Micronesia collection made by Japanese zoologists in the pre-war time, were kindly placed at my disposal for study.

All the material dealt with in this paper is from the following three sources. The Museum of the Zoological Institute of Kyoto University at Kyoto possesses 12 samples which were collected by Syô TAKAHASHI, then Professor of Hiroshima Higher Normal School, at Palau Islands during a short stay between March 5-30, 1915. The Museum of the Zoological Institute of Tokyo University at Tokyo has a very few samples from Bonin (Ogasawara) Islands collected by Sadamori HIROTA and Ryûtarô SEKIGUCHI between February 10 to April 22, 1894, and one from Ponape Island. In the Museum of the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory at Sirahama, there is a small collection, most of which were made by Toshihiko YAMANOUCHI in 1937 during the survey of Iwayama Bay of Koror Island, containing my own made in 1934.

To all the gentlemen in charge of the collections of these Institutions and to Dr. Shinkishi HATAI, then Director of the Palao Tropical Biological Station, I wish to express my hearty thanks.

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1) Contributions from the Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, No. 279.

For the locality names used in the following text, GRESSITT's gazetteer (1954) is followed here for convenience, but only partially synonyms previously used by Japanese are also put in parentheses. The abbreviations of the sources of the material are as follows:

- Z. I. K. .... Zoological Institute, Kyoto University, Kyoto.  
 Z. I. T. .... Zoological Institute, Tokyo University, Tokyo.  
 S. M. B. L. ... Seto Marine Biological Laboratory, Sirahama.

### LIST OF SPECIES

Stolonifera	
<i>Clavularia inflata</i> SCHENK	Ponape
<i>Pachyclavularia violacea</i> (QUOY et GAIMARD)	Bonins
<i>Tubipora musica</i> LINNAEUS	Palau
Telestacea	
<i>Telesto trichostemma</i> (DANA)	Palau
Alcyonacea	
<i>Heteroxenia pinnata</i> ROXAS	Palau
<i>Microspicularia kremplfi</i> (HICKSON)	Palau
<i>M. sphaerophora</i> (EHRENBERG)	Bonins
<i>Sinularia polydactyla</i> (EHRENBERG)	Palau
<i>S. flexibilis</i> (QUOY et GAIMARD)	Palau
<i>S. gardineri</i> (PRATT)	Palau
<i>Sarcophyton acutangulum</i> (MARENZELLER)	Palau
<i>S. digitatum</i> MOSER	Palau
<i>S. glaucum</i> (QUOY et GAIMARD)	Palau
<i>S. tenuispiculatum</i> THOMSON et DEAN	Palau
<i>S. trocheliophorum</i> MARENZELLER	Palau
<i>Lobophytum crebriplicatum</i> MARENZELLER	Palau, Bonins
<i>Capnella fungiformis</i> KÜKENTHAL	Palau
<i>Paralemmalia thyrsoides</i> (EHRENBERG)	Palau
<i>Nephthea chabrolii</i> AUDOUIN	Palau
<i>Dendronephthya köllikeri</i> KÜKENTHAL	Palau
<i>D. palaoensis</i> UTINOMI	Palau
<i>D. spinulosa</i> (GRAY)	Palau
Coenothecalia	
<i>Heliopora coerulea</i> (PALLAS)	Palau
Gorgonacea	
<i>Melithaea ochracea</i> (LINNAEUS)	Palau
<i>M. squamata</i> (NUTTING)	Palau

<i>Isis hippuris</i> LINNAEUS	Palau
<i>Plexaura flava</i> NUTTING	Palau
<i>Junceella squamata</i> TOEPLITZ	Palau
Pennatulacea	
<i>Pennatula fimbriata</i> HERKLOTS	Palau

## STOLONIFERA

## Family Clavulariidae HICKSON

*Clavularia inflata* SCHENK

*Clavularia inflata* UTINOMI, 1953, p. 150, text-figs. 1-2, pl. 8, figs. 1-2.

*Material examined*: Adult colonies attached to an ascidian *Polycarpa aurata* (QUOY et GAIMARD), Ponape Island, date and collector unknown (Z. I. T.).

*Distribution*: Philippines (Luzon), East Indies, Great Barrier Reef (Low Isles), Formosa, Southern Japan (Tokara Islands).

*Pachyclavularia violacea* (QUOY et GAIMARD)

*Pachyclavularia violacea* GOHAR, 1940, p. 20.

*Clavularia violacea* ROXAS, 1933a, p. 59.

*Pachyclavularia erecta* ROULE, 1908, p. 165, 3 figs.; MOLANDER, 1929, p. 24; THOMSON & DEAN, 1931, p. 19, pl. 2, figs. 4, 8 & 9; pl. 5, figs. 6, 7 & 9; pl. 16, figs. 1 & 2; MACFADYEN, 1936, p. 25.

*Material examined*: One colony growing on a stone, Titizima, Bonin Islands, April 1894, coll. S. HIROTA and R. SEKIGUCHI (Z. I. T.).

This extraordinary beautiful stoloniferan of bright reddish violet color, which was named by ROULE (1908) as *Pachyclavularia erecta* n. g. et sp., is so far little known, although it may not be less common on the coral reefs in the tropical West-Pacific region. Its peculiar structure was fully described by THOMSON and DEAN (1931) and the systematic position of the genus *Pachyclavularia* has already been discussed by MOLANDER (1929, p. 24), MACFADYEN (1936, p. 23) and GOHAR (1940, p. 17). The last-named author, who examined the type specimen of *Clavularia violacea* QUOY et GAIMARD preserved in the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, concludes that the two species, *violacea* and *erecta*, are synonymous. I am also of the same opinion on this point, but does not follow him in rejecting it from the Tubiporidae.

*Distribution*: Santa Cruz Islands (Vanikoro), East Indies, Philippines (Luzon), Great Barrier Reef (Wishart's Reef), Formosa (Garanbi).

## Family Tubiporidae GRAY

*Tubipora musica* LINNAEUS

*Material examined*: dry specimens, Outer reef of Palau Islands, coll. H. UTINOMI (1934) and T. TOKIOKA (1940) (S. M. B. L.).

*Distribution*: Widespread in the tropical Indo-Westpacific.

## TELESTACEA

## Family Telestidae H. MILNE-EDWARDS

*Telesto trichostemma* (DANA)

(Fig. 1)

*Telesto trichostemma* LAACKMANN, 1908, p. 77; KÜKENTHAL, 1911, p. 326, text-figs. 42-44, pl. 21, fig. 14.

*Material examined*: 3 fragments, Ngarengelngael Passage (Geruherugairu Suidô) in Iwayama Bay, Koror Island, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

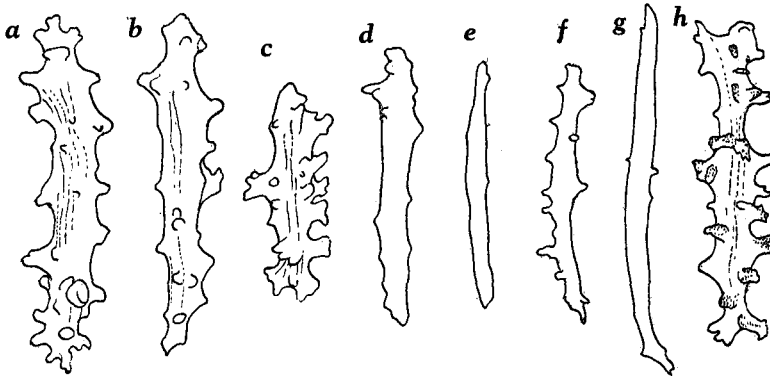


Fig. 1. *Telesto trichostema* (DANA).  
Spicules of: a-e, polyps; f-h, stem (All  $\times 150$ )

The specimens are fragmental, but all covered together by an encrusting siliceous sponge. The stem is slender, undivided, 23-33 mm in length and 0.8-1.2 mm in diameter; each may be branches issuing from a single colony. A few lateral polyps arise at an angle of about  $40^\circ$ . The height of polyps is up to 3 mm and the diameter about 1 mm. The coenenchyme is soft in texture and dirty white in color. Spicules are tuberculated rods, becoming more slender and smooth towards the tip of polyps, about  $0.18 \times 0.018$  mm  $\sim$   $0.3 \times 0.07$  mm. They are thickly disposed longitudinally on polyps and irregularly on stems. And they are interlocked with one another by virtue of their processes and occasionally fused together on stems.

*Distribution*: Fiji Islands, Torres Strait, Aru Islands, Maldives Islands.

HICKSON (1921, p. 369) recorded this species from Uruga Channel off Tokyo Bay, in 40–200 fathoms. From his brief note without figures, however, it is difficult to justify his identification on the Japanese specimen, since previous records are all from shallow sea of the tropical waters.

## ALCYONACEA

### Family Xeniidæ VERRILL

#### *Heteroxenia pinnata* ROXAS

*Heteroxenia elizabethae* HIRO, 1937b, p. 237 (not KÖLLIKER's *elizabethae*).  
*H. pinnata* ROXAS, 1933a, p. 102, pl. 4, fig. 9; UTINOMI, 1950, p. 86, fig. 2b.

*Material examined*: 8 specimens, reef flat of Ulebsehel (Oropusyakaru) Island, Palau Islands, 1934, coll. H. UTINOMI (S. M. B. L.). 3 specimens, the same place, 1934, coll. H. UTINOMI (Z. I. K.).

As I have already mentioned, this dimorphic xeniid is luxuriant on the reef flat only facing the outer lagoon around Ulebsehel Island, and the rhythmical movement of pulsating tentacles is easily observed in the field.

*Distribution*: Philippines (Mindoro Island), Palau Islands.

### Family Alcyoniidæ VERRILL

#### *Microspicularia kremphi* (HICKSON)

(Fig. 2, *a-k*)

*Alcyonium Kremphi* HICKSON, 1919, p. 411, figs. 1-2.  
*Lobularia Kremphi* TIXIER-DURIVAUT, 1948, p. 96, figs. 88-93.

*Material examined*: 3 colonies, Koror Island, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

The capitulum is cerebriform, round to oval in outline, measuring 4.5×3.2 cm, 5×3 cm and 7×4.5 cm in spread respectively and about 2 cm in height. Capitular lobes are rather large, round to polygonal 8 to 18 mm in longest diameter and 5 to 15 mm in height. Polyps are uniformly arranged on lobes, 0.7–0.9 mm in diameter and completely retractile. Tentacles, about 0.5 mm long, long-stalked, with usually 3-paired pinnules widened proximally, and bear on the back of median rachis tiny spicules, which are sometimes lacking. These spicules are finger-biscuit-like to elongate, smooth discs, from 0.025×0.01 mm to 0.037×0.011 mm, or feebly warted rods with a slight median constriction, from 0.052×0.023 mm to 0.06×0.034 mm. In cortex and coenenchyme of both the lobes and stalk are contained larger capstans with large rounded warts, which are wider than high, about 0.056×0.037 mm~0.1×0.075 mm.

Their shape is almost similar, but those in the basal coenenchyme are somewhat larger than in the lobular cortex.

*Distribution*: Nhatrang Bay (Vietnam), Seychelles, Madagascar.

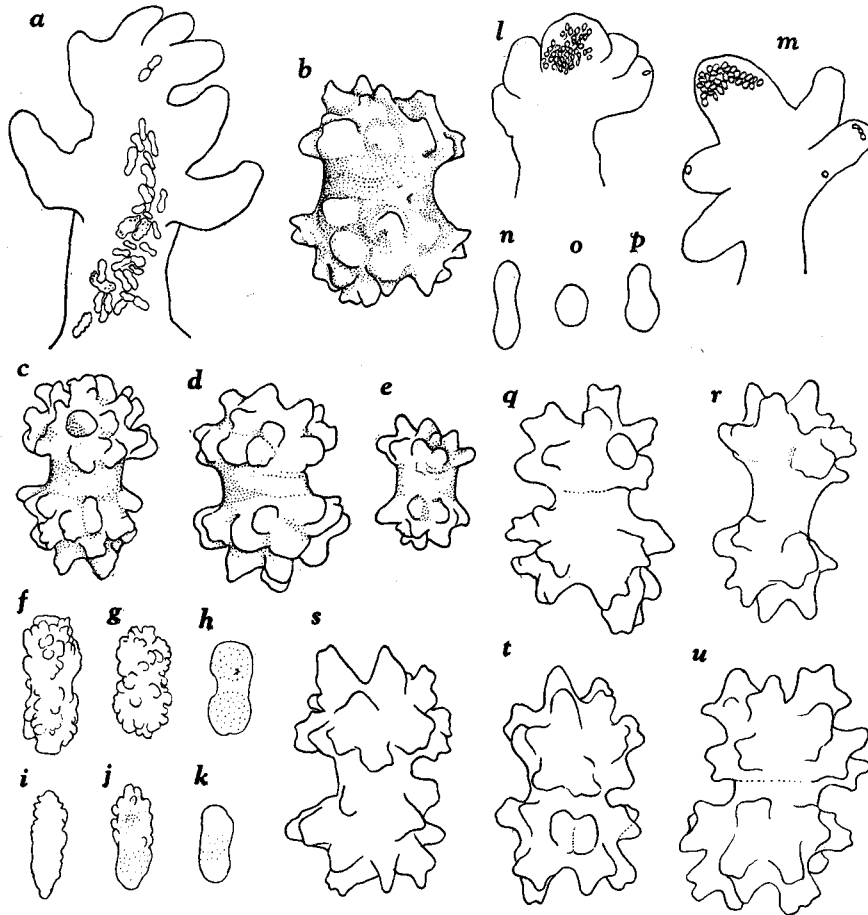


Fig. 2. *a-k*, *Microspicularia krempfi* (HICKSON): *a*, tentacle bearing spicules on axis alone; *b*, coenenchymal spicule of base; *c-e*, cortical spicules of lobes; *f-k*, spicules of tentacles. *l-u*, *Microspicularia sphaerophora* (EHRENBERG): *l-m*, tentacles bearing spicules at ends; *n-p*, spicules of tentacles; *q-r*, coenenchymal spicules of lobes; *s-t*, cortical spicules of lobes; *u*, cortical spicule of base.

(*a*, *l* and *m*,  $\times 80$ ; the rest,  $\times 335$ )

### *Microspicularia sphaerophora* (EHRENBERG)

(Fig. 2, *l-u*)

*Alcyonium sphärophorum* KLUNZINGER, 1877, p. 22, pl. 1, fig. 1.

*Lobularia sphaerophora* TIXIER-DURIVAUT, 1948, p. 29, figs. 15-19.

*Material examined*: 2 colonies, Anizima, Bonin (Ogasawara) Islands, April 1894, coll. S. HIROTA and R. SEKIGUCHI (Z. I. T.).

Both specimens are compressed, rounded oval in outline and cerebriform in upper surface. They measure respectively as follows:

47×39 mm in spread; 15 mm high.

50×35 mm in spread; 20 mm high.

Lobes rounded, 6×5 mm to 12×8 mm wide and 10 mm high. Zooids minute, 0.5–0.7 mm in diameter and count about 7 to a length of 5 mm. Cortical spicules are rather uniform: they are tuberculated capstans with a narrow median waist, about 0.065×0.035 mm~0.11×0.065 mm; the warts at both ends are broad and usually bifid at tip. In coenenchyme of lobes there are similarly shaped spicules, though with a narrower and longer median waist and roundly tipped warts. A cluster of finger-biscuit-shaped spicules, about 0.019–0.03 mm long, occur at the expanded axial end of tentacles and a few on two-paired pinnules.

*Distribution*: Red Sea, Madagascar, Zanzibar, Seychelles, Tahiti.

#### *Sinularia polydactyla* (EHRENBERG)

*Material examined*: 3 specimens, 5–11.5 cm in length, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

This well-known sinulariid coral is very luxuriant around the reef edge of the Palau Islands, decreasing to the inner part of Iwayama Bay in abundance, and grows to a large size on the outer reef.

*Distribution*: Widespread in the Indo-Westpacific.

#### *Sinularia flexibilis* (QUOY et GAIMARD)

*Material examined*: A small specimen, 13 cm long, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

The specimen shows a typical appearance of this remarkable species, bearing a number of long, flexible branches on the top of the stout cylindrical stalk with a height of 8 cm and a diameter of 2.8 cm. Terminal branches are finger-like up to 15 mm long, with a maximum diameter of about 3 mm and completely devoid of spicules. Cortical spicules of the stalk are irregular small clubs, 0.07 to 0.13 mm long, while in the interior occur heavy spindles with low rounded warts, though not thickly set, about 0.5×0.08 mm~1.5×0.18 mm. The stalk spindles are rather small compared with previous descriptions of this species as well as the other sinulariids.

*Distribution*: Vanikoro, Fiji, Samoa, Great Barrier Reef, East Indies, Vietnam, Philippines.

*Simularia gardineri* (PRATT)

(Fig. 3, a-m)

*Simularia gardineri* UTINOMI, 1954a, p. 50, fig. 6.

*Material examined*: 2 specimens, Ngarengelngael Passage in Iwayama Bay, Koror Islands, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

Two flat colonies, both with a spread of  $7 \times 4$  cm and a height of 2-3 cm, agree well with this species in the manner of growth and in the distinctive spiculation.

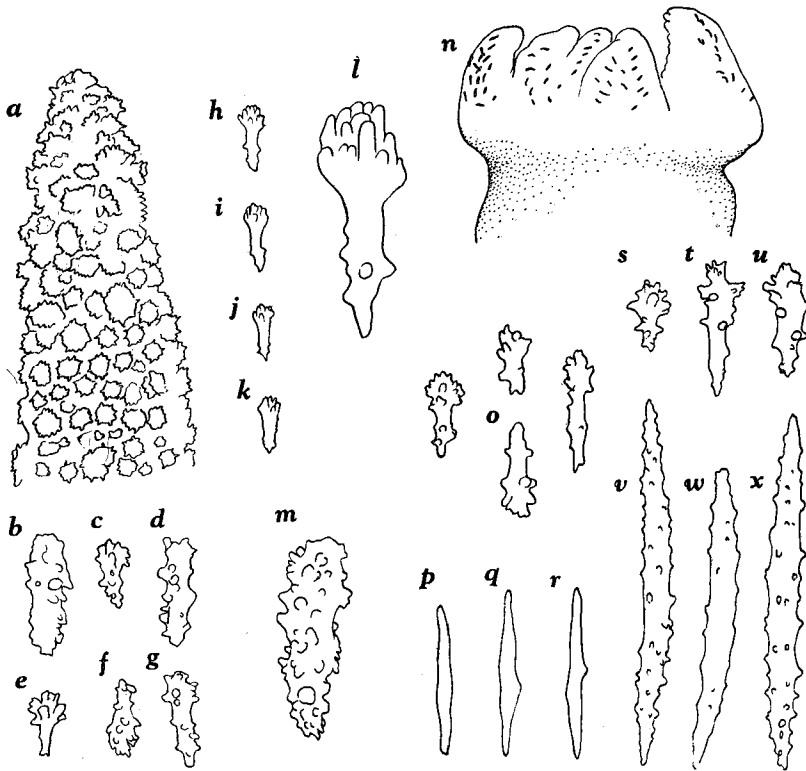


Fig. 3. a-m, *Simularia gardineri* (PRATT): a, part of coenenchymal spindle; b-g, warty rods of stalk cortex; h-l, cortical clubs of stalk; m, warty rod of disc cortex. n-x, *Sarcophyton digitatum* MOSER: n, autozooid; o, cortical spicules of disc; p-r, coenenchymal spicules of disc; s-u, cortical spicules of stalk; v-x, coenenchymal spicules of stalk. (n,  $\times 35$ ; l,  $\times 415$ ; the rest,  $\times 100$ )

The lobes scattered on the upper surface, about 5 mm apart from one another, are short, digitate in form, about 4-12 mm long and bluntly tipped, not subdivided. Cortical clubs about 0.08-0.11 mm long and 0.037 mm wide, with a knotty mass of warts, no central wart called as such being present at the tip of head. In addition, warty



rods up to 0.3 mm long occasionally occur. Coenenchymal spicules are large, heavily warted spindles up to 3 mm long.

*Distribution*: Red Sea, Ceylon, Maldives, East Indies, Great Barrier Reef, middle Japan (Kii coast).

*Sarcophyton acutangulum* (MARENZELLER)

*Material examined*: A fragment 3.5 cm long, Koror Island, Palau Islands, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCI (S. M. B. L.).

*Distribution*: Widespread in the Indo-Westpacific, as far north as Kii coast of middle Japan.

*Sarcophyton digitatum* MOSER

(Fig. 3, *n-x*)

*Sarcophyton digitatum* ROXAS, 1933b, p. 380, pl. 1, fig. 8; MACFADYEN, 1936, p. 41.

*Material examined*: 2 colonies, 7-9 cm long, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

In both specimens, the stalk is long, cylindrical and the margin of the capitulum is regularly folded into 5 high folds, arising to a height of 4 cm, and projects far out of the stalk. Autozooids are very numerous, so thickly set on disc that only one siphonozooid between two autozooids. They are, when extended, 4 mm long and 0.6-0.8 mm in diameter. The spiculation of the disc and stalk is almost similar. Cortical spicules are warty rods or clubs, about  $0.09 \times 0.037$  mm  $\sim$   $0.18 \times 0.056$  mm; the head of clubs is only irregularly knobby. Coenenchymal spicules are slender spindles feebly warted to wholly smooth, ranging from  $0.18 \times 0.015$  mm to  $0.28 \times 0.028$  mm in smooth form and from  $0.45 \times 0.035$  mm to  $0.7 \times 0.04$  mm in warted form. On aboral surface of the autozooids are seen smaller rod-like spicules.

*Distribution*: Philippines, Seychelles, Great Barrier Reef.

*Sarcophyton glaucum* (QUOY et GAIMARD)

*Material examined*: A young, unfolded colony, 3 cm high and 2.4 cm wide, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

*Distribution*: Widespread in the Indo-Westpacific.

*Sarcophyton tenuispiculatum* THOMSON et DEAN

(Fig. 4)

*Sarcophyton tenuispiculatum* THOMSON and DEAN, 1931, p. 64, pl. 22, fig. 6.

*Material examined*: One specimen, Ngarengelngael Passage in Iwayama Bay, Koror Island, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCI (S. M. B. L.).

A single specimen, dull brown in color, with the margin of disc convoluted into about 10 high and low folds, has a maximum disc diameter of 11 cm and a stalk 10 cm in height.

The margin of the disc is not thick, about 4–6 mm in thickness and projects only slightly over the slightly broadened apical portion of the stalk. Autozooids are 0.3 mm in diameter, about 1–1.5 mm apart, and there are about 9–11 autozooids to a centimeter at the margin. Siphonozooids are clear to the naked eye and only 2 between two autozooids at the margin, though 2–3 in the center of the disc.

The spiculation is very characteristic, differentiating into the following four regions.

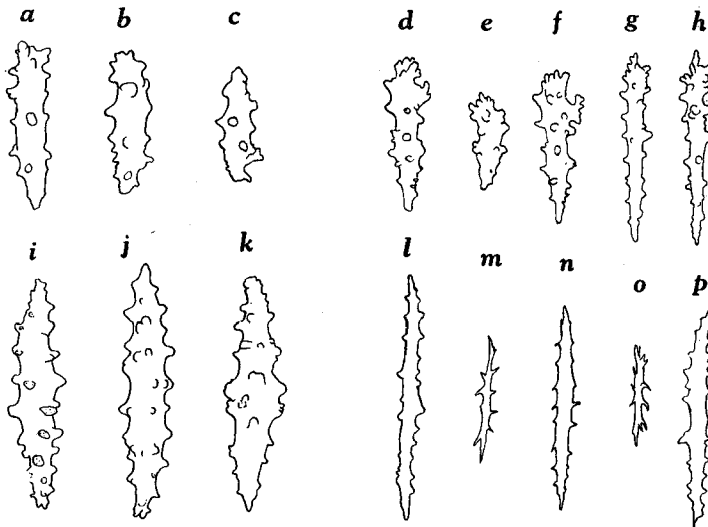


Fig. 4. *Sarcophyton tenuispiculatum* THOMSON et DEAN.

Spicules of: a-c, stalk cortex; d-h, disc cortex; i-k, stalk interior; l-p, disc interior. (All  $\times 100$ )

(a) In the stalk cortex are mainly short warty rods which may be derived from the spindle type:  $0.12 \times 0.035$  mm,  $0.17 \times 0.07$  mm,  $0.23 \times 0.07$  mm.

(b) In the stalk interior are all ordinary spindles with somewhat distant zoned warts:  $0.25 \times 0.05$  mm,  $0.3 \times 0.07$  mm,  $0.35 \times 0.05$  mm.

(c) In the disc cortex are deformed spindles or pseudoclubs:  $0.12 \times 0.05$  mm,  $0.16 \times 0.05$  mm,  $0.26 \times 0.04$  mm.

(d) In the disc interior are delicate, slender spindles with relatively few, sharply pointed warts and pointed at both ends:  $0.12 \times 0.02$  mm,  $0.18 \times 0.02$  mm,  $0.35 \times 0.03$  mm.

*Remarks:* Although the original description of *S. tenuispiculatum* (THOMSON and

DEAN, 1931), on which to base a judgment as to the identification, is far from satisfactory, the present specimen seems to me referable to it, especially in spiculation. The differences, if any, may be due to the size of the colony.

*Distribution*: Djampeah (Flores Sea, East Indies).

*Sarcophyton trocheliophorum* MARENZELLER

*Material examined*: One specimen, 7 cm high, Koror, Palau Islands, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

*Distribution*: Widespread in the Indo-Westpacific, as far north as Tokara Islands, southern Japan.

*Lobophytum crebriplacatum* MARENZELLER

*Material examined*: One specimen, 7.5 cm high, koror, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.)

One specimen, Turihama at Titizima, Bonin Islands, March 1894, coll. S. HIROTA and R. SEKIGUCHI (Z. I. T.).

*Distribution*: Tonga Islands, Low Isles, Madagascar, southern Japan (Tokara Islands).

Family Nephtheidae (VERRILL) emend. UTINOMI

*Capnella fungiformis* KÜKENTHAL

(Fig. 5)

*Capnella fungiformis* KÜKENTHAL, 1903, p. 133, pl. 7, fig. 5; pl. 9, figs. 30-32; THOMSON and MACKINNON, 1910, p. 179, pl. 5, fig. 11; THOMSON and DEAN, 1931, p. 71, pl. 10, figs. 2 and 5; MACFADYEN, 1936, p. 48.

*Material examined*: 3 specimens, 4-6 cm high, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

Three brownish-gray colonies, the largest one of which has a height of 6 cm and a basal diameter of 4 cm, have a fungiform appearance characteristic to this species. Polyp-bearing lobes are 7-10 mm long and 5-6 mm in diameter, each covering densely incurved polyps about 1.8-2.2 mm long and 0.8-1.5 mm wide. The polyp armature consists of warty spindles ( $0.12 \times 0.035$  mm  $\sim$   $0.4 \times 0.15$  mm) which may be clavate owing to slight foliation at the thickened end. The sterile stalk shows heavily warted capstans,  $0.05 \times 0.017$  mm  $\sim$   $0.2 \times 0.07$  mm and in the interior includes the typical jagged double-spheres ( $0.12 \times 0.08$  mm) or barrel-shaped spicules ( $0.2 \times 0.15$  mm), with sometimes no hint of median waist.

*Distribution*: Indian Ocean (Coetivy and Dar es Salaam), Great Barrier Reef (Low Isles), East Indies.

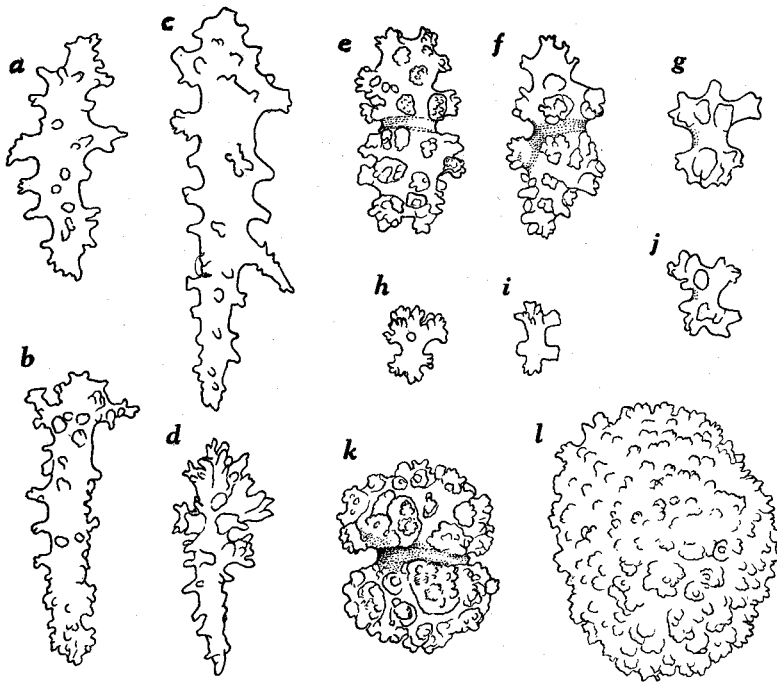


Fig. 5. *Capnella fungiformis* KÜKENTHAL.

Spicules: a-d, polyps; e-j, stalk cortex; k-l, stalk interior. (All  $\times 150$ )

*Paralemmalia thyrsoides* (EHRENBERG)

(Fig. 6)

*Ammonothea thyrsoides* KLUNZINGER, 1877, p. 31, pl. 2, fig. 3; MAY, 1900, p. 134, pl. 2, fig. 14 (var. *ramosa*).

*Lithophytum thyrsoides* THOMSON and HENDERSON, 1906, p. 427 (with var. *durum*).

*Lemmalia thyrsoides* THOMSON and DEAN, 1931, p. 76, pl. 9, figs. 2 & 6.

*Paralemmalia thyrsoides* KÜKENTHAL, 1913, p. 16; ROXAS, 1933b, p. 394, pl. 2, fig. 1; pl. 4, fig. 9; MACFADYEN, 1936, p. 55.

*Material examined*: One specimen. Ngarengelngael Passage in Iwayama Bay, Koror Island, 1934, coll. H. UTINOMI (S. M. B. L.).

The colony of this peculiar species, brownish in life, is very abundant on the sandy flat in the southern entrance of Iwayama Bay, Koror Island. The polyps are uniformly distributed all over the finger-like lobes, up to 7 cm long in the extended condition, arising from the membranous base. They are about 1 mm apart at the tip, more widely apart downwards and expand fully under the water. In the preserved material, the polyps are entirely retracted and the lobes are very brittle because of the spongy texture of the coenenchyme.

*Distribution*: Red Sea, Indian Ocean (Tumbatu, Zanzibar), East Indies, Great Barrier Reef (Yonge Reef), Philippines and southernmost cape of Formosa.

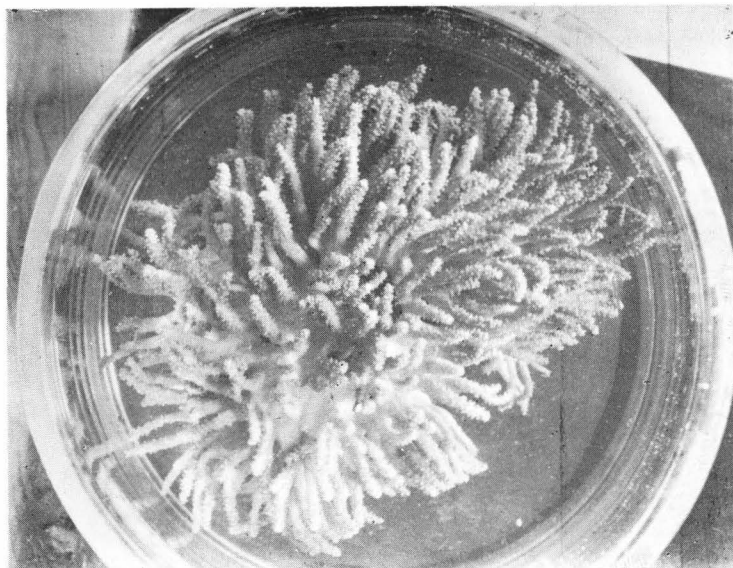


Fig. 6. *Paralemnalia thyrsoides* (EHRENBERG).  
A living colony (photo by H. UTINOMI at Palau). ( $\times \frac{1}{4}$ )

*Nephthea chabrolii* AUDOUIN

*Nephthea chabrolii* UTINOMI, 1954b, p. 59, fig. 2 (with synonymy).

*Material examined*: One specimen, 6 cm long, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

The general appearance and spiculation agree well with my former description of this species from Kii coast, middle Japan, excepting that the coenenchymal spicules of the stalk attain up to 3 mm long and 0.3 mm wide.

*Distribution*: Widespread in the Indo-Westpacific, as far north as middle Japan (Kii coast).

*Dendronephthya köllikeri* KÜKENTHAL

(Fig. 7)

*Dendronephthya köllikeri* KÜKENTHAL, 1905, p. 573, text-fig. J, pl. 27, fig. 15.

*Material examined*: One specimen, 11 cm long, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

One specimen, 5 cm long, Palau Islands, collector and date unknown (Z. I. T.)

A large glomerate colony collected by S. TAKAHASHI consists of two main branches, about 7 cm long and a sterile stalk, about 4 cm long, which are generally flattened in one plane with a maximum width of 6.5 cm. Basal branches are numerous and foliaceous, encircling the top of the stalk.

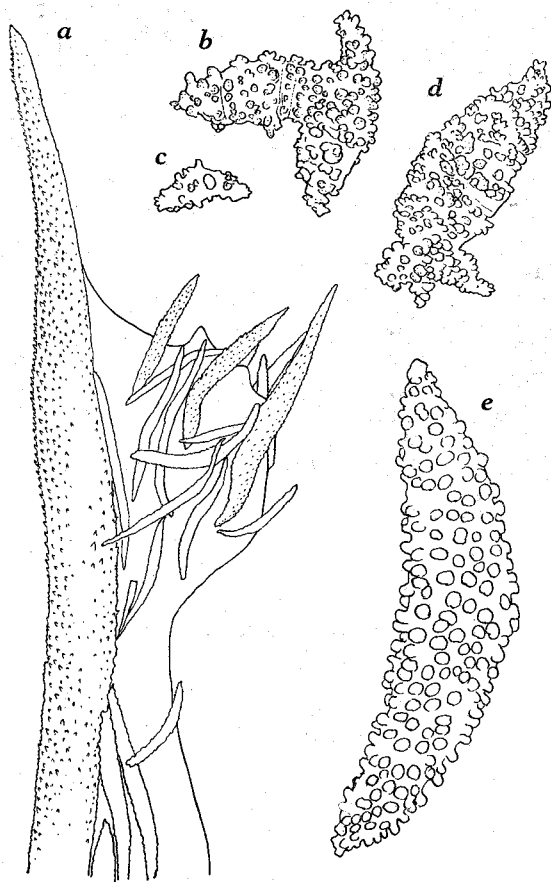


Fig. 7. *Dendronephthya köllikeri* KÜENTHAL.

*a*, polyp; *b-d*, spicules of stalk cortex; *e*, spicule of canal-walls.

Cortex of stalk and branches is thickly arranged transversely with remarkable white spicules up to 5 mm long. Downwards they become somewhat irregular in arrangement and contain triradiate or irregular-shaped smaller spicules, about  $0.35 \times 0.17$  mm  $\sim$   $2.5 \times 0.3$  mm. Canal-walls are filled with 2 mm long and 0.3 mm wide plump spindles with flattened large warts scattered all over.

Polyps are compactly grouped and remarkable in very strongly projecting

supporting-bundle spicules of which the longest one is up to 5 mm long. Point spicules are distantly arranged in eight rows, each in 2 or 3 pairs; uppermost one is hockey-club-shaped, up to 1 mm long and highly projects for about 0.3 mm long beyond polyp-head. Dorsal and ventral rows are occasionally unpaired. Thus the formula of anthocodial armature follows:

$$IV = 1P + (1-2)p + 0Cr + \text{very strong S. B.} + 0M$$

These anthocodial spicules are brownish or orangish yellow, while the other spicules colorless.

*Distribution*: This species, originally recorded from the Palaus, is so far unknown elsewhere.

#### *Dendronephthya palaoensis* UTINOMI

*Dendronephthya palaoensis* UTINOMI, 1952, p. 140, text-fig. 11, pl. 10, fig. 11.

*Material examined*: One specimen, Koror Island, Palau Islands, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

This species belonging to the divaricate group has been fully described in my former paper given above.

#### *Dendronephthya spinulosa* (GRAY)

*Dendronephthya spinulosa* UTINOMI, 1952, p. 191, text-fig. 18, pl. 10, fig. 14.

*Material examined*: One specimen, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

The specimen here examined from Palau is gigantic, probably of the greatest size in this group, next to *D. maxima* KÜKENTHAL (78 cm long) from Sagami Bay. Namely it is about 60 cm in total length of which 42 cm belongs to the sterile stalk. The stalk is gradually tapering upwards, the diameter being about 11 cm at the base and only 2 cm at the top. The polyparium is formed of three main branches, measuring respectively 9 cm, 12 cm and 18 cm in length. In addition, there are two foliaceous branchlets at the base of polyparium.

The spiculation exactly agrees with that of the Japanese specimen, though the anthocodial armature is not so brittle as previously noted.

All polyp spicules are orangish, the upper branches white, while the stalk brownish red.

*Distribution*: Indian Ocean, China Sea, middle Japan (Tanabe Bay).

## COENOTHECALIA

## Family Helioporidae MOSELEY

*Heliopora coerulea* (PALLAS)

*Heliopora coerulea* EGUCHI, 1938, p. 387; EGUCHI, 1948, p. 362, pl. 60, figs. 3, 4 & 6;  
UTINOMI, 1953, p. 159.

*Material examined*: Several dry specimens, outer reef of Palau Islands, 1934, coll. H. UTINOMI (S. M. B. L.).

As was noted in my paper on the cirripeds of the Palau Islands, the blue coral occurring commonly in the Palau Barrier Reef is sometimes infested with a peculiar barnacle, *Tetracrita* (*Tesseropora*) *wirēni* NILSSON-CANTELL (HIRO, 1937a, p. 68, pl. 3, fig. 4). Its occurrence in the coral is only detectable by a circular pore on the surface of the coral. According to EGUCHI (1948), frequently this is also perforated by commensal or parasitic worms (probably a kind of polychaetes).

*Distribution*: Widespread in the Indo-Westpacific, as far north as Ryūkyū Islands.

## GORGONACEA

## Family Melithaeidae (GRAY) emend. RIDLEY

(=Melitodidae WRIGHT et STUDER)

*Melithaea*\* *ochracea* (LINNAEUS)

(Fig. 8, *a-k*)

*Melitodes ochracea* KÜKENTHAL, 1911, p. 334, text-figs. 54-60, pl. 23, fig. 20; NUTTING, 1911, p. 38; HICKSON, 1932, p. 469; HICKSON, 1937, p. 97, figs. 5-7; STIASNY, 1940, p. 218, text-fig. E, pl. 9, figs. 12-13; pl. 14, figs. 34-35.

*Material examined*: 2 dry specimens, Palau Islands, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

Two colonies of this well-known species, 28 cm and 22 cm long respectively, are both irregularly fan-shaped in growth and scarcely reticulate around the main stems. The main stems are somewhat flattened measuring as 10×13 mm to 11×14 mm in

\* Since the emendation by VERRILL (1864), the name *Melitodes* has long been used for the genus as a substitute name for *Melitea* or *Melitaea*. However, the other older name *Melithaea*, which has been used by H. MILNE-EDWARDS (1857), KÖLLIKER (1865) and GRAY (1870), but not by later workers, is not to be treated as a homonym of such names according to the latest Copenhagen Decision on Nomenclature (1953). There is no decisive evidence to prove whether it is a substitute name for *Melitaea* or the result of only an inadvertent error in spelling, but the new genus name *Melitodes* was not accepted by GRAY (1870), merely quoting a suggestion of VERRILL without comment. For the above reasons it seems better to retain the name *Melithaea* for the genus instead of *Melitodes*.



diameter and the branches run almost parallel to the main stems. The nodes are distinctly hollowed on outer surface and separated on an average by a length of 15 mm (13–20 mm). The polyps are usually distributed on one side of the flabellum and they are mostly small, about 0.45 mm in diameter.

The anthocodial armature, as illustrated by HICKSON and STIASNY, consists of eight chevroned rows of curved spindles, about 4 pairs in each point, arranged above

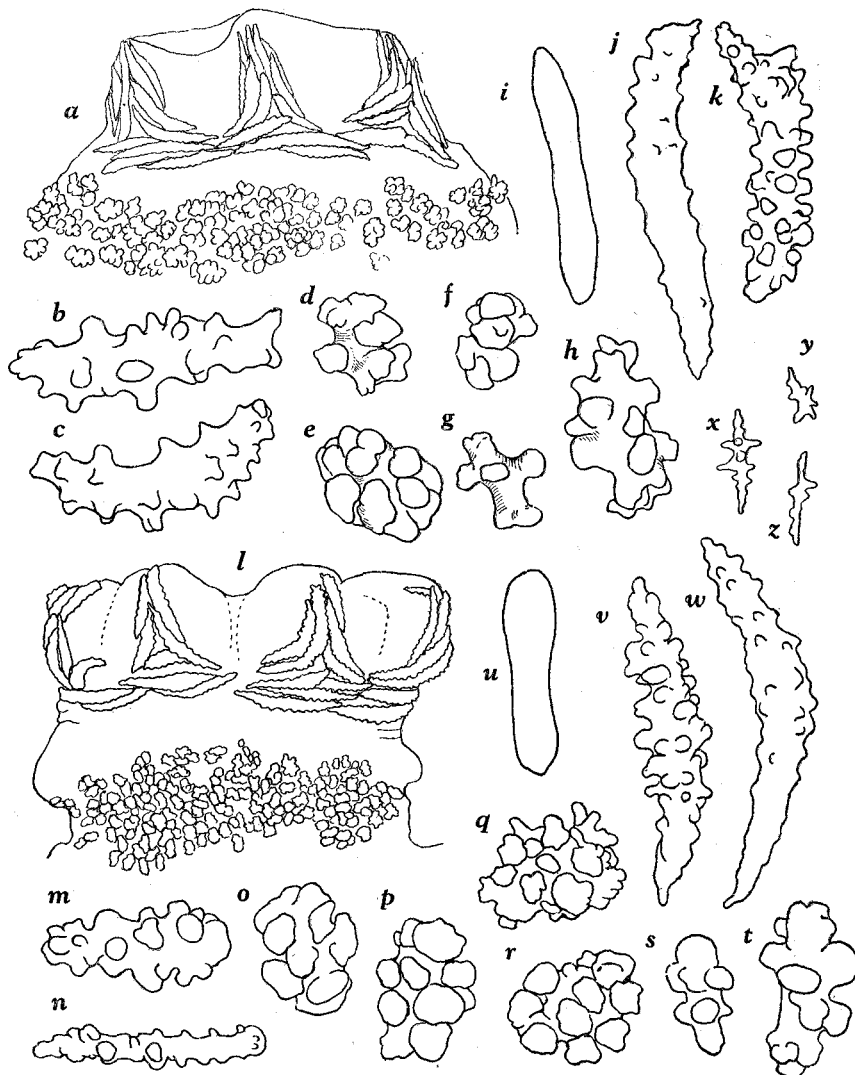


Fig. 8. *a-k*, *Melithaea ochracea* (LINNAEUS): *a*, polyp; *b-h*, coenenchymal spicules; *i*, spicule of node; *j-k*, point spicules. *l-z*, *Melithaea squamata* (NUTTING): *l*, polyp; *m-t*, coenenchymal spicules; *u*, spicule of node; *v-w*, point spicules; *x-z*, tentacle spicules. (*a* and *l*,  $\times 80$ ; the rest,  $\times 335$ )

a collaret ring composed of two straight spindles transversely placed; they measure  $0.088 \times 0.017$  mm~ $0.16 \times 0.07$  mm. The coenenchyme is filled with spindles, clubs and their deformed oval forms with large blunt tubercles,  $0.035 \times 0.03$  mm~ $0.1 \times 0.05$  mm. The node includes smooth rodlets, about 0.08–0.1 mm long.

The color of the entire colony is red, but the spicules are orange or colorless in the coenenchyme and yellow in the anthocodiae.

*Distribution*: Indian Ocean, East Indies, Great Barrier Reef.

### *Melithaea squamata* (NUTTING)

(Fig. 8, *l-z*)

*Melitodes squamata* NUTTING, 1911, p. 41, pl. 7, fig. 1; pl. 12, fig. 1; HICKSON, 1937, p. 120.  
*M. squamosa* KÜKENTHAL, 1919, p. 150; KÜKENTHAL, 1924, p. 62 (erroneous spelling of *squamata*).

*Material examined*: One colony broken into fragments, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

The specimen, though incomplete, is undoubtedly flabellate and not reticulate in growth, as in the original description of this species. The main stem is round in cross section, about 12 mm in diameter, but the branchlets are somewhat compressed. All the branches are borne on the horny nodes where are much swollen. Polyps are distributed on three sides, leaving the back of the flabellum bare, but as a rule they are arranged in two lateral rows on branches, with a few scattered between them on a median upper surface of the stem. The verrucae are remarkably small for the size of the colony, the usual diameter being only 0.5 mm. They are crimson red in conflict with the yellow color of the coenenchyme of the colony. The nodes and internodes of the axis have the same color as the verrucae, though the tentacles are pale yellow to colorless.

The spicules are almost alike those of the preceding species, although the anthocodial spicules of the points (0.12–0.25 mm long) are fewer in number. The coenenchyme is filled with very small, yellow spicules, mostly tuberculated spheres (usually  $0.05 \times 0.04$  mm). In the verrucae, the tuberculated spicules are more or less larger, including ovals or club-like forms ( $0.035 \times 0.017$  mm~ $0.09 \times 0.035$  mm). The nodes are thickly filled with smooth rodlets of orangish color, about 0.035–0.085 mm long.

*Distribution*: East Indies (off Timor), 34 m (type locality).

### Family Isididae STUDER

#### *Isis hippuris* LINNAEUS

*Isis hippuris* SIMPSON, 1906, p. 421, pl. 43; KÜKENTHAL, 1924, p. 443; HICKSON, 1932, p. 470; HICKSON, 1938, p. 596.

*Material examined*: 3 bleached fragments, 13 cm, 16 cm and 18 cm in length, Helen Reef, southernmost of Palau Islands, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

This well-known species is represented in the collection by three imperfect specimens, lacking all the coenenchyme and attachment bases. It is easily identified, however, by the white calcareous internodes furrowed longitudinally and the brown horny nodes markedly constricted, alternating one another. The maximum diameter of the axis is about 5 mm where about 20 low ridges encircle.

*Distribution*: Indo-Westpacific in shallow seas.

### Family Plexauridae GRAY

#### *Plexaura flava* NUTTING

(Fig. 9, *a-i*)

*Plexaura flava* NUTTING, 1910, p. 8, pl. 2, fig. 1; pl. 4, fig. 6; STIASNY, 1935, p. 55, text-fig. P, pl. 4, fig. 21; STIASNY, 1940, p. 239.

*Euplexaura flava* KÜKENTHAL, 1924, p. 100.

*Material examined*: A single specimen, 22 cm long, Palau Islands, March 1915, coll. S. TAKAHASHI (Z. I. K.).

The specimen agrees well with NUTTING's description and figures of this species. The colony in alcohol is light Naples yellow in color, with the brown axis. The branchlets are given off in a pinnate arrangement from the main stem and primary branches, at intervals of 3–7 mm and at an angle of about 60°–70° to the axis. The calyces, about 0.4 mm in diameter, are very low and evenly distributed on all sides of the branches. Spicules of the coenenchyme are coarsely warted spindles, sometimes pointed at one end, about  $0.1 \times 0.035$  mm~ $0.32 \times 0.05$  mm. Anthocodial spicules are only smooth rodlets,  $0.09 \times 0.0012$  mm.

*Distribution*: East Indies, Sulu Archipelago.

### Family Gorgonellidae STUDER

#### *Junceella squamata* TOEPLITZ

(Fig. 9, *j-q*)

*Junceella squamata* TOEPLITZ, 1929, p. 257, text-fig. 1, pl. 6, fig. 1; STIASNY, 1940, p. 246.

*Material examined*: 5 dry specimens, 49–64 cm long, Lebugol Channel, Koror Island, Palau Islands, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCHI (S. M. B. L.).

The colonies are unbranched, whip-like and dirty white in the dried condition, though two of them are fused together at base. The diameter of the stem does not differ much throughout; in one specimen, for example, it is 7 mm at base while 4.5 mm at the terminal end. The proximal part, about 2–4 cm in length, is usually sterile,

but with a slight median longitudinal furrow, suggesting a biradial arrangement of polyps. The coenenchyme is comparatively thick and filled with asymmetrical double-clubs whose heads have smooth warts, about  $0.075 \times 0.047$  mm~ $0.083 \times 0.047$  mm. The verrucal spicules are narrower and more asymmetrical in form than those of the coenenchyme, about  $0.07 \times 0.018$  mm~ $0.084 \times 0.028$  mm.

*Distribution*: Philippines, Formosa, East Indies.

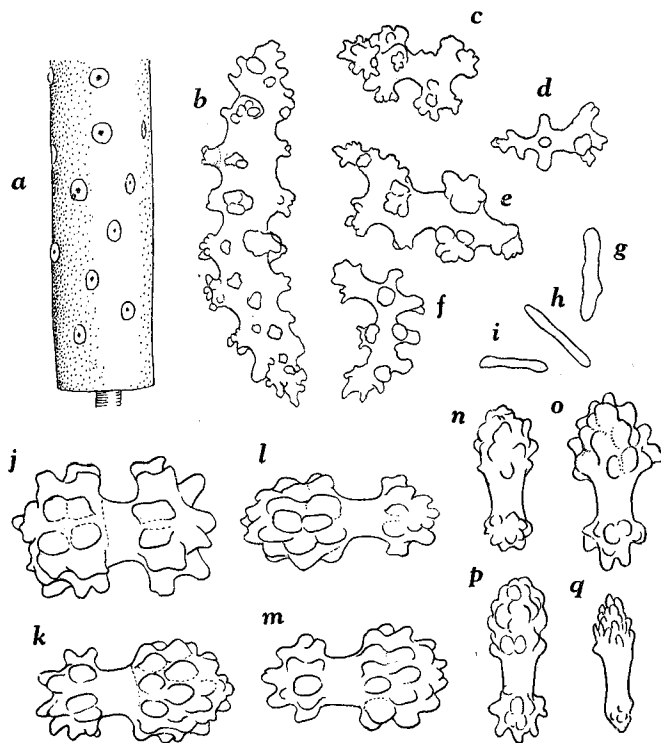


Fig. 9. *a-i*, *Plexaura flava* NUTTING: *a*, part of branchlet; *b-f*, coenenchymal spicules of main stem; *g-i*, polyp spicules. *j-q*, *Junceella squamata* TOEPLITZ: *j-m*, stem spicules; *n-q*, verrucal spicules. (*a*,  $\times 5$ ; *b-i*,  $\times 150$ ; *j-q*,  $\times 335$ )

## PENNATULACEA

### Family Pennatulidae KÖLLIKER

#### *Pennatula fimbriata* HERKLOTS

*Material examined*: 2 specimens, both 23 cm long, Ngarengelngael Passage, Koror Island, 1937, coll. T. YAMANOUCI (S. M. B. L.).

*Distribution*: Japanese and Malayan Seas.

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