


is only necessary here to give some further account of the different spicular forms present. Vosmaer (*loc. cit.*), following Bowerbank, sums up the spiculation as follows:—"Spic. tr. ac.; tr^o; Λ ;  (large ones and minute ones); rut. rut. ('congregated in groups,' large and strong); rut. rut. ('minute'); anc. anc. ('minute'); anc². ('large and stout')." By careful comparison of Bowerbank's own preparations with those from the Challenger specimen, we have satisfied ourselves as to the identity of the two. There can be no doubt that Bowerbank has mentioned as proper to the sponge certain forms of spicules which are really foreign, and he has also omitted to mention the trichodragmata, which are present in his preparations. These facts are pointed out in the "Alert" Report (*loc. cit.*) by Ridley, who gives the following as the true spiculation:—

- "1. Smooth, subspinulate acute, with slight elongate head; basal end slenderer than middle of shaft: .33 by .013 millim.
- "2. Large inequianchorate; large end comparatively short, its tubercle long and narrow: .057 millim. long.
- "3. Navicular equianchorate: .013 millim. long.
- "4. Bihamate, smooth, contort: .095 by .008 millim.
- "5. Trichite spicules in bunches of two to four or five: .032 to .16 by .0018 millim."

Locality.—Station 208, January 17, 1875; lat. 11° 37' N., long. 123° 31' E.; depth, 18 fathoms; bottom, blue mud. One specimen, encrusting a *Pecten* shell.

Habitat.—Straits of Malacca (Bowerbank); Port Darwin, Australia (Ridley); Philippine Islands (Challenger). Shallow water.

Esperella gelatinosa, Ridley, sp. (Pl. XVI. fig. 7).

1884. *Esperia gelatinosa*, Ridley, Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," p. 611, pl. liv. figs. *f-f'''*.

This species, which was obtained abundantly by the "Alert" expedition at Providence Reef and Providence Island, Mascarene group, is represented in the Challenger collection by one fine specimen from Cape York, Torres Strait. The Challenger specimen (Pl. XVI. fig. 7) is much larger than any previously obtained, and is divided into three lobes, the largest of which has a height of 45 mm. by a maximum breadth of 22 mm. As the species has already been fully described (*loc. cit.*), further details would be superfluous.

Locality.—Cape York, Torres Strait, 3 to 11 fathoms. One fine specimen.

Habitat.—Mascarene Islands (Ridley); Torres Strait (Challenger). Shallow water.