

THE  
VOYAGE OF H.M.S. CHALLENGER.

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ZOOLOGY.

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REPORT on the MONAXONIDA collected by H.M.S. Challenger during the Years 1873-76. By STUART O. RIDLEY, M.A., F.L.S., late Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum, and ARTHUR DENDY, B.Sc., F.L.S., Associate of the Owens College, and Assistant in the Zoological Department of the British Museum.

PREFACE.

In presenting this Report it seems desirable to give some explanation with regard to the arrangement of the work. We have always felt strongly the great importance of minute anatomical and histological investigation in describing sponges. Owing, however, partly to the unfavourable condition for histological purposes of a large proportion of the material at our disposal and partly to the limited space of time available for the completion of the work, it has been found impossible to work out the minute anatomy and histology of all the species in the collection. Hence we have found it advisable to investigate in detail some of the leading types only, and to confine our remarks on the subject to a special chapter in the Introduction, making them at the same time rather of a general nature.

We have to express our sincere thanks to Mr. John Murray, the Editor of the Challenger Reports, in the first place for placing so valuable and interesting a collection in our hands, and in the second place for the great indulgence which he has shown us while preparing the Report. We have also especially to thank Professor Flower, F.R.S., Director of the Natural History Department of the British Museum, and