

species, *Paramuricea spinosa*, Köll., and *Paramuricea intermedia*, Köll., are placed by Kölliker in this genus.

Ridley (*loc. cit.*) believes that for this genus the name *Villogorgia*, given by Duchassaing and Michelotti,¹ in the year 1860, to a species of the genus of Kölliker, has the priority, and substitutes it for that proposed by Kölliker. He also therein includes *Paramuricea gracilis*, Studer, *Paramuricea borealis*, Verrill, *Boarella flabellata*, Gray, *Brandella intricata*, Gray, and as new, *Villogorgia mauritiensis*, Ridley. The substitution of *Villogorgia* for *Paramuricea* cannot be approved of, for the original diagnosis of Duchassaing and Michelotti was not only deficient but erroneous. The chief diagnostic character given by these authors is the absence of spicules, which is not a fact even in the case of some of the species described. So badly defined a generic name should not be employed for a genus, the species of which are distinguished in a marked manner by the peculiar manner and development of their body-spicules.

Verrill, in his account of the *Anthozoa* dredged by the "Blake" (*loc. cit.*), has also employed the name *Paramuricea*, and has characterised the genus as "Coral variously branched, often large. Cœnenchyma usually thick, filled with rough, fusiform and irregular spicula, some of which often project from the surface as small spinules. Calices short, cylindrical or verruciform, armed at the summit by a circle of short, projecting spinules, which are formed by the distal ends of large spicula having a large, irregular, flattened, usually lobed or flattened, basal portion, sides of calices with rough spicula, part of them irregular and flattened. Bases of contracted tentacles form eight triangular, convergent lobes, filled with spicula arranged *en chevron*; a circle of curved, transverse spicula surround the bases of these tentacular lobes."

Verrill places here species from the northern part of the Atlantic Ocean and from the Mediterranean, for the most part inhabitants of moderate depths. Besides the type (*Paramuricea placomus*, Ehrbg.), three new species from the east coast of America are included, also the following, formerly placed in *Acanthogorgia*—*Paramuricea grayi* (Johns.), *Paramuricea atlantica* (Johns.), and *Paramuricea hirta* (Pourt.), to which may be added *Acanthogorgia johnsoni*, Studer.

The genus is here accepted as emended by Verrill. Other species placed here by Ridley, as *Brandella* (*Villogorgia*, Ridley), *intricata*, Gray, and *Villogorgia nigrescens*, Duch. and Mich., are placed by us in a separate genus. The species of *Paramuricea* generally present large, upright, and for the most part strongly branched stems; the branching of which takes place in one plane. The axis is soft, translucent, horny, generally a little flattened on the thinner branches and very flexible. The cœnenchyma is not very thick. At the summit of the branches, which are somewhat thickened at their apexes, there are usually three to four polyps placed in different directions, none of them being placed directly on the termination of the branch.

¹ Coralliaires des Antilles, p. 32.