

a double row of minute, spiny, fusiform spicules, which are to be found in the outer walls of each of the tentacles, which, when the tentacles are withdrawn, form a protection to the soft parts of the polyp.

Measurements of the Spicules.—The large spindles 1-0.3; 1.6-0.5 mm. The smaller spindles 0.6-0.2; 0.5-0.1; 0.42-0.1; 0.4-0.14; 0.3-0.08 mm. The clubs vary from 0.3 to 0.2 mm. in length. Those with broad folia measure in the broadest diameter 0.15 mm., those with narrow folia 0.08 mm. The four-rayed spicules measure 0.1-0.1 mm. The needle-shaped spicules at the base of the tentacles measure 0.2-0.02; 0.06-0.02 mm.

Habitat.—Bermuda; shallow water.

Genus *Plexauroides*, n. gen.

Colony branching, mostly in the one plane. Stem and branches cylindrical. Axis horny, dense, with the central portion calcareous. Nutrient canals symmetrically arranged. Cœnenchyma thin, consisting of two very distinct layers of spicules, the one nearest the axis is composed of irregular stellate forms, the outer layer of large Blattkeule, the broad foliar expansions of which project beyond the surface of the cœnenchyma, forming a rough imbricated surface.

The polyps are numerous, fully retractile, with scarcely visible verrucæ, the edges of these latter being fringed with rows of the broad projecting folia of the Blattkeule.

This genus is established for the forms of *Plexaura* with large Blattkeule, which project by their thin-edged folia beyond the surface of the cœnenchyma, and present the appearance of a series of imbricated scales.

On a revision of all the genera of the Plexauridæ it is probable that several species of *Plexaurella* may have to be relegated to this genus.

Plexauroides prælonga (Ridley) (Pl. XXVIII. figs. 1, 1 α ; Pl. XXXIII. fig. 2).

Plexaura prælonga, Ridley, Rep. Zool. Coll. H.M.S. "Alert," p. 339, 1884, pl. xxxvi. fig. F, pl. xxxvii. figs. g. g'.

Two specimens, which may be referred to the above species, are in the collection from Torres Strait.

The colony is erect, branching in one plane, forming an irregular dichotomy. In one of the specimens (that figured) the colony is attached by a flat, irregular disc, measuring 15 by 10 mm. The main axis, at about a height of 20 mm., gives off a branch 30 cm. long; then at an interval of 10 mm. a second branch nearly as long as the first; at a distance of another 10 mm. a third branch arises, but from the opposite side of the axis, this one reaches a length of 20 cm., while the main stem continues unbranched for a further length of 26 cm.