

generally be traced back to twin structures. Their diameter reaches on an average 0.3 mm.; sometimes one arm becomes abortive, so that irregular triradiate forms arise; rather large spines, placed at wide distances apart, give them a prickly surface. Owing to the presence of these bodies the outer covering of the trunk acquires a finely granular character.

In addition to these crosses we meet with spindles in the base of the trunk. These are elongated, *f*-shaped, pointed at both ends, and covered with fine, sharp spines; they are red or white, up to 2 mm. in length and 0.08 to 0.1 mm. in diameter. In the upper portion of the trunk the spindles predominate, and, owing to their red colour, they are individually distinctly recognisable with the unassisted eye. In the polyp-bearing portion these spicules are mixed with white ones, up to 4 mm. in length. These latter are irregularly arranged in transverse and oblique bands, always so as to leave soft interspaces between them. In the branches they are mostly transversely placed, but in the secondary branches and twigs they take on more of a longitudinal direction. In the twigs and secondary twigs they are mostly white, and are packed so closely together that they give to the outer covering in these places a hard rigid character. A bundle of spicules is developed in each little polyp head, and one particular spicule of the bundle projects above the head for a distance of up to about 2 mm. This spicule is armed in a slightly sinuous manner; it is half red and half white, and is thickly covered with fine spines; length, up to 4 mm., diameter 0.1 mm. The other spindles measure as follows:— 3 mm. by 0.07 mm., red; 1.2 mm. by 0.067 mm., white; 0.83 mm. by 0.08 mm. These spicules are generally bent so as to become somewhat *f*-shaped; frequently they are sharp at one end and more blunted at the other. The bases of the polyp heads are surrounded by bent spicules arranged in a row; from these arise spiny spindles directed towards the margin, and from these arise eight more, which project above the bases of the tentacles, like needles. They are generally somewhat bent and blunted at one end, at the other end they are sharper and covered with little upright spines; length 0.58 mm., diameter 0.04 mm.

In the colour of the colony a yellowish-white prevails, mixed with red here and there. The base of the trunk is a bright purple, the stem, branches, and twigs are yellowish-white, purple spicules occur only here and there, isolated or in tracts. The polyp heads appear reddish, between them appear the purple spicules, which project above the heads.

*Habitat*.—Station 203, lat. 11° 6' N., long. 123° 9' E.; Philippine Islands; depth, 20 fathoms; bottom, mud.

*Spongodes anguina*, n. sp.

The colony consists of a long, cylindrical, flabby stem, dividing at the end into a number of branches; these, speedily ramifying, bear at the end umbels of polyps.