

Genus *Scleronephthya*, n. gen.

The stem is upright, branched; the surface, branches, and twigs bear scattered polyps, which collect together in dense groups on the terminal twigs, and completely cover them. The canal-system consists in the main stem of numerous narrow canals, divided by thick partition walls filled with spicules. The spicules are large, spiny spindles, which form a thick coat of mail around the polyps, and are continued and arranged, *en chevron*, into the bases of the tentacles, which latter form a kind of operculum over the oral region. Beneath the bases of the tentacles the spicules form a distinct collar.

In the shape and armature of the polyps this genus comes near to *Nephthya*, but the condition of the stem and branches brings it closer to *Siphonogorgia*, Kölliker. One distinguishes a more compact outer covering, and a central mass penetrated by canals, which is thickly filled with spicules. The canals are irregularly polygonal in section, and are absent from the centre of the stem, so that here the connective tissue filled with spicules forms a kind of irregular axis. The stem and branches acquire thereby a tough, compact consistence; neither in spirit nor in the dry condition do their walls collapse, whence they may be distinguished at the first glance from those of the true Spongodiæ.

Scleronephthya pustulosa, n. sp. (Pl. XXXVIa. figs. 2a, 2c).

The upright colony arises from a slightly expanded base, first in the form of a main stem. This after a short course gives off, mainly on two sides, rather large branches rising upwards at acute angles, while on both the other sides only small branches come off irregularly. Both the main stem and the branches divide at the end into two or three short, diverging, secondary branches. In addition to these the branches also give off at right angles along their course small secondary branches. Quite short terminal twigs, thickly covered with polyps, arise at various intervals from the secondary branches, forming, together with their polyps, roundish heads. Polyps, partly isolated and partly in groups of three and more, also arise here and there at wide intervals directly from the main stem and branches, in such a manner that the greater part of the branches and of the stem appears naked. The polyps have a wart or club-like shape and project at right angles from their support.

Height of the colony,	.	.	.	.	.	.	85 mm.
Diameter of the main stem at its base,	.	.	.	.	.	.	16 "
Diameter of the main stem in the centre,	.	.	.	.	.	.	9 "
Length of one of the larger-branches,	.	.	.	.	.	.	32 "
Length of a polyp-bearing twig,	.	.	.	.	.	.	4-5 "
Diameter of the same,	.	.	.	.	.	.	4 "
Length of a polyp,	.	.	.	.	.	.	1 "
Diameter of the same,	.	.	.	.	.	.	1 "