

cent. of the whole deposit. The silica of these spicules is intimately associated with organic matter, the spicules being composed of alternate layers of opal or hydrated silica and organic substances.<sup>1</sup> The percentage of water in the various analyses of Sponge spicules varies from 7 to 13 per cent.<sup>2</sup> There is abundant evidence to show that these spicules are slowly dissolved in the sea-water after the death of the animal.<sup>3</sup>

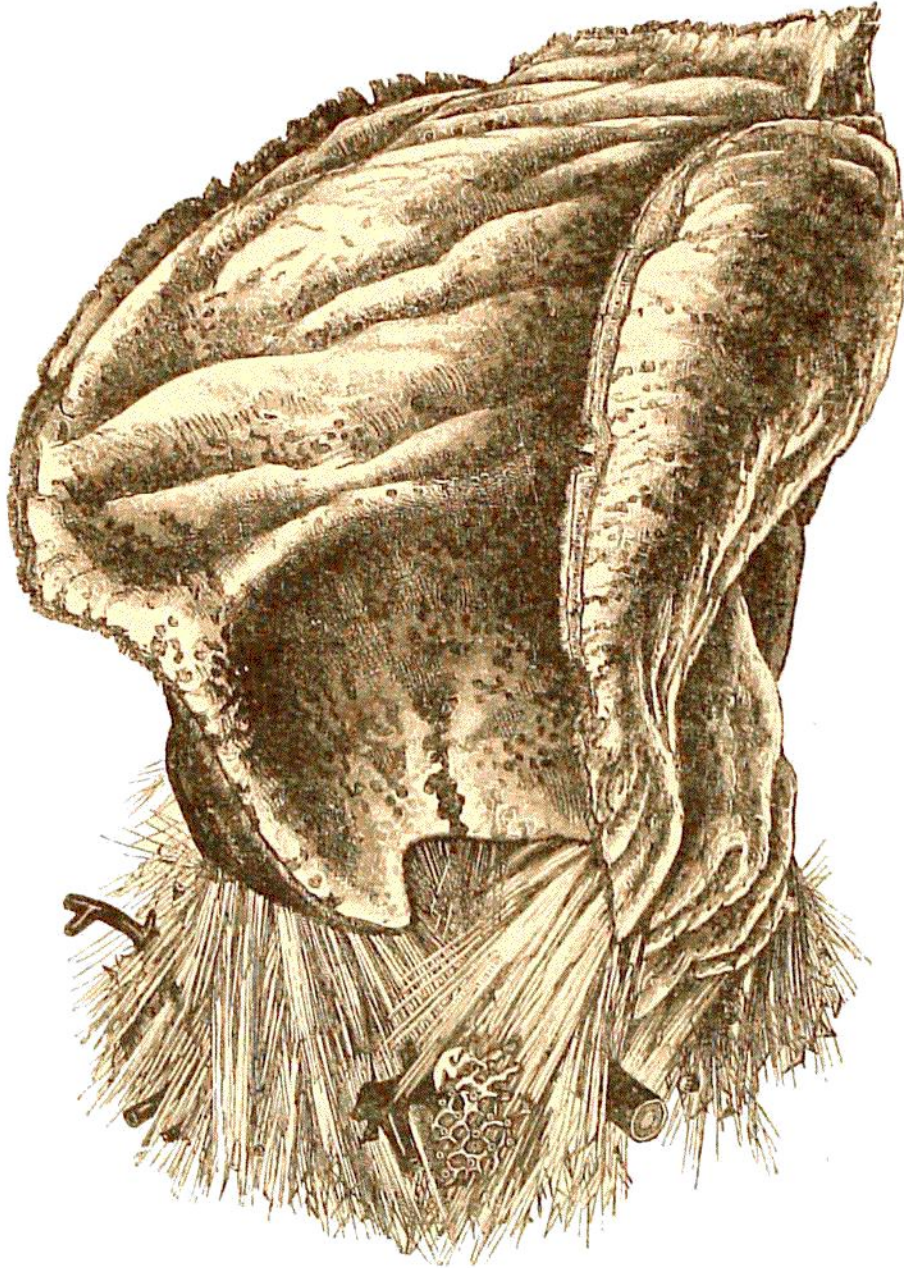


FIG. 32.—*Poliopogon amadou*, Wyville Thomson (‡).

In addition to the Diatoms, Radiolarians, and Sponge spicules, there are large numbers of Foraminifera, Annelids, Crustacea, and Molluscs, which form their shells, tubes, and houses of Sponge spicules, Radiolarians, Diatoms, and other materials

<sup>1</sup> See Schulze, Report on the Hexactinellida, Zool. Chall. Exp., pt. liii.; Ridley and Dendy, Report on the Monaxonida, Zool. Chall. Exp., pt. lix.; Sollas, Report on the Tetractinellida, Zool. Chall. Exp., pt. lxiii.; Thoulet, *Comptes Rendus*, tom. xxviii. pp. 1000, 1001.

<sup>2</sup> Sollas, *loc. cit.*, pp. 47 et seq.; Thoulet, *loc. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> Schulze, *loc. cit.*, pp. 26, 27.