

the soft parts; the oscula, scanty in the incrusting specimen, proved to be thoroughly deficient in that of leaf-like shape; one of the specimens proved to be sterile; the other was provided with numerous sperm-balls. The habitat of *Spongelia spinifera*, hitherto found only in the Adriatic, is now extended to the east coast of Australia.

Colour.—Pale greyish and dirty yellowish.

Habitat.—Off Port Jackson, depth 7 fathoms.

Spongelia pallescens, O. Schmidt (Pl. III. fig. 1).

This species, whose detailed definition we owe also to F. E. Schulze,¹ has been divided by him into two subspecies, and each subspecies in its turn split into two varieties. The numerous Challenger specimens of *Spongelia pallescens* are all to be determined as subspecies *fragilis* var. *ramosa*, but I must add that while the diagnosis of this variety as given by F. E. Schulze is thoroughly applicable to the Challenger specimens, the meshes of their skeletons proved to be of rather larger diameter than those of any of the Spongelidæ with anastomosing fibres examined by F. E. Schulze, and whose skeletons, through his kindness, have all been placed at my disposal. Whether this difference is of individual or varietal or even specific value, I am unable to decide, and therefore limit myself to merely mentioning it.

Colour.—Pale yellow and lilac.

Habitat.—Bahia, shallow-water.

Spongelia horrida, Selenka (Pl. III. fig. 2).

Spongelia horrida, Selenka, Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool., Bd. xvii. p. 566, pl. xxxv. figs. 1-4, 1867.

This species, placed by Selenka in the genus *Spongelia*, has also been adopted by F. E. Schulze,² but apparently only on account of its form and the properties of the skeleton. I am pleased to be able to sanction this proceeding, as the external shape and structure of the skeleton of the Challenger specimens agree closely with those of the forms described by Selenka, and their internal organisation is that of a typical *Spongelia*. The identification of the forms in question is, on the other hand, confirmed by the fact that both the Challenger and Selenka's specimens were from Australia.

The Challenger Collection possesses three specimens of *Spongelia horrida*; two are in the form of crusts 12 to 18 mm. high, the third being of a more massive appearance. But all three specimens are equally constant to the main character of the species, the meshes of their skeleton being far larger than in any other *Spongelia*, as may be seen on Pl. III. fig. 2. The foreign enclosures of the fibres proved to be chiefly

¹ Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool., Bd. xxxii. p. 154, 1879.

² *Ibid.*, Bd. xxxii. p. 122.