

Iophon laminalis, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. XVI. fig. 6 ; Pl. XVII. figs. 9, 11).

1886. *Iophon laminalis*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 349.

Shape doubtful. In its present condition the specimen consists of a number of irregular, flat, or slightly curved, cake-like expansions (Pl. XVI. fig. 6), which, taken together, cover an area of about 250 square centimetres. These have no appearance of having lain on the bottom of the sea, and as they seem too thin and fragile to have stood erect as a flat lamina, we are inclined to think that, when living, the sponge had a cup-like form, like *Alebion (Iophon) piceum*, Vosmaer,¹ from Barents Sea. Thickness of the lamellæ 4 to 17 mm. The two sides are slightly different in appearance, one being smoother than the other. There is a distinct, thin, *dermal membrane*, especially visible on the smooth side. *Colour* in spirit dark reddish-brown. *Surface* uneven, with numerous small *oscula* scattered over it on both sides of the lamellæ. *Texture* loose, crumbling, slightly stringy.

Skeleton.—(a) *Dermal*; a network (not always easy to make out) of tylota. (b) *Main*; a loose reticulation, not arranged in definite meshes, of large, subtylostylote spicules arranged longitudinally along certain tracts, so as to form long but loose fibres, which give rise to the somewhat stringy character of the sponge.

Spicules.—(a) *Megasclera*; (1) large subtylostyli (Pl. XVII. fig. 11, b), measuring 0.63 by 0.022 mm. The heads of these spicules are only faintly developed, so that they are very nearly simply stylote, and they taper somewhat suddenly, from near the apex, to a sharp point. (2) Tylota (Pl. XVII. fig. 11, a), shaft and head usually smooth, but head sometimes minutely spined; size 0.34 by 0.0013 mm. (b) *Microsclera*; two kinds are present as usual. (1) Palmate anisochelæ, 0.025 mm. long; (2) bipocilli (Pl. XVII. fig. 9) 0.013 mm. long. The palmate anisochelæ seem to be very rare in the one specimen present; but the bipocilli are extremely abundant and very fine, consisting each of a curved shaft with a large cup-shaped expansion at one end and a small one at the other.

Only one specimen, broken into fragments, of this interesting species was obtained. In the fine state of development of its bipocillate microsclera it approaches *Iophon chelifer*, a specimen of which was obtained at the same station; while in external form it probably comes near to *Iophon piceum*, Vosmaer.² The species to which it is perhaps most nearly related is, however, *Iophon cylindricus*, which, like it, has the stylote spicule smooth; but, as will be seen from the description of that species, the proportions of the spicules in the two differ very widely; and, as in probably no other known *Iophon*, the styli here show a tendency to become tylostylote.

Locality.—Station 145A, December 27, 1873; lat. 46° 41' S., long. 38° 10' E.; off Prince Edward Island; depth, 310 fathoms; bottom, volcanic sand. One specimen.

¹ *Niederländ. Archiv f. Zool.*, Suppl. Bd. i., 1881-2, p. 42, pl. i. fig. 19, pl. iii. figs. 75-82.

² *Loc. cit.*, *supra*, pl. i. fig. 19.