

The stem and branches are stout, fragile, and quite inflexible; their surface has a rough granular character. The scattered polyps cause them to appear as though covered with warts. Even the terminal twigs do not show the cluster-like form found in the preceding genus, for the polyps everywhere project stiffly from the base, and are distinctly separated from one another. The canals in the stem are very numerous, and very irregular, being angular or oval, or slit-like in section. Their diameter varies from 2 to 0.8 mm. The partition walls which divide them increase in thickness from the outside towards the inside, attaining as much as 1 mm. in diameter. In the axis of the stem these partition walls unite together to form a central portion, which is very irregular in section. In the branches the canals are relatively wider and less numerous; there are eight in a slender branch, 4 mm. in diameter; they are radially arranged and still contain mesenterial folds on which ova are developed.

The spicules are warty spindles, sometimes thickened at one end, frequently simply curved or *f*-shaped, surrounded by blunt, vertical warts.

In the calyces large *f*-shaped spindles are arranged in obliquely ascending rows, in such a manner that one spicule frequently extends half round the wall. At the base of the tentacles they are peripherally disposed and form a kind of collaret. In the bases of the tentacles, which when folded together cover the oral region forming a kind of operculum, small, spiny, somewhat flattened spicules occur, arranged *en chevron*. Small spicules also occur everywhere between the large spindles, filling up the intervals. Size of the spicules—in the branches and twigs 1.14 by 0.1, 0.5 by 0.05 mm.; in the polyps 0.4 by 0.025 mm, 0.54 by 0.08 mm.; in the collaret 0.25 by 0.025 mm.; small spicules 0.08 by 0.03 mm.; in the tentacles 0.09 by 0.03 mm.

Colour in alcohol, brownish-grey.

Habitat.—Station 208, lat. 11° 37' N., long. 123° 31' E.; Philippine Islands; depth, 18 fathoms; bottom, blue mud.

Genus *Chironephthya*, n. gen.

Colony rigid, upright, ramified. The ascending barren stem gives off after a longer or shorter course, stiff, finger-like branches, which either remain simple or give off a few stout secondary branches. The polyps arise at wide intervals along the whole extent of the branches, at the apex they are somewhat more crowded. They consist each of a calyx, which is pressed against the branch, a retractile oesophageal portion, and a tentacular portion which is provided at the base with a collar of spicules. The bases of the tentacles, armed with spicules, form a conical, quasi operculum.

In the ectoderm of the stem and branches there are a number of large spicules lying close together, and the same applies to the dividing walls of the canal-system, so that the entire colony acquires a rigid brittle consistency. In the slender branches the canals are