

Sporadopora, Moseley.

This genus, hitherto unknown, I described in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, vol. clxxiii., 1876, p. 94, under the name *Polypora*, but as I was informed by Mr Etheridge, junior, that the name *Polypora* was already in use, I changed it to *Sporadopora*, which refers to the irregular scattering of the pores over the surface of the cœnosteum. The genus is founded on a single species, *Sporadopora dichotoma*, obtained on one occasion only by the Challenger off the mouth of the Rio de la Plata in 600 fathoms.

Cœnosteum of *Sporadopora dichotoma*.

The cœnosteum or hard calcareous structure in this Hydroid occurs in the form of stout upright stems, which branch with tolerable regularity dichotomously to form a flabelliform expanse. The stem is usually nearly circular in section towards its base, but becomes compressed above in the plane of the fan, whilst the branches and branchlets forming the fan itself are very much flattened, so as to be more oblong than oval in transverse section. The number of branchings is few, only four or five at most. The flattened branches and branchlets coalesce at their adjacent margins. A figure of a well-grown but partly broken example is given on Plate I. fig. 2, reduced to half the natural dimensions.

Sometimes the stems are somewhat bent and irregular, as are also the flabellate expanses which they support. The height of the largest specimen obtained is about $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and the breadth of the fan about 5 inches. The diameter of the stem at its base is about 1 inch; in more slender specimens $\frac{1}{2}$ inch to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch. In one large broken and dead specimen the stem is 2 inches in diameter. The cœnosteum is dense and heavy, and when macerated out from a living specimen is of a pearly white, and smooth and glistening in appearance (Pl. I. fig. 1). The surface is pierced by deep pores, which are simply circular in outline and of two kinds, large and small, and are scattered irregularly over it. The larger pores or gastropores are less numerous than the smaller. They are deep, reaching nearly to the central axis of the branch or stem on which they are situated, and contain a deep-seated, long, and slender style. The smaller more numerous pores, the dactylopores, are thickly dispersed between the larger ones. They have no style. The pores are usually more abundant on one face of the coral flabellum than on the other; indeed, large areas of what may be called the back of the stem are often devoid of pores altogether.

The appearance of the surface of the cœnosteum as seen by reflected light under a low magnifying power is shown in Plate II. fig. 2. The surface presents slight irregular undulations. Its texture is somewhat like that of loaf sugar, being composed of closely