

22. *Madrepora laxa*, Lamarck.

*Madrepora laxa*, Lamarck, Hist. Anim. sans Vert., ii. p. 280, 1816.  
 „ „ Milne-Edwards and Haime, Cor., iii. p. 146.

A portion only of a specimen was obtained. The species is very close to *Madrepora pocillifera*, but seems to be sufficiently distinguished by the nature of the calicles, which are tubo-labellate, much thicker and stronger, especially on the under side of the cup, not oblique or fragile, but becoming verruciform, especially towards the basal parts of the branchlets. The branches are often short and thick, with many proliferous branchlets crowned by thick and broad apical cups. The surface is shortly striate, dense and echinulate.

*Locality*.—Reefs, Fiji.

23. *Madrepora aspera*, Dana.

*Madrepora aspera*, Dana, Zoophytes, p. 468, pl. xxxviii. fig. 1.

The specimens of this species agree closely in essential features with the description given by Dana, whose specimen was a fragment 3 inches in height. Those in the collection are large and much branched specimens, and show very clearly that though the apical parts are porous in texture, the basal portions are dense and firm. The lateral calicles are very unequal and rather crowded, many very small narrow labellate ones being placed between the larger, which are broadly labellate; the aperture of the cell where it joins the branch is always small. Dana characterises the cells as being quite large, but a reference to his figure of a branch, natural size, will show that the term must be applied to the broad lip and not to the aperture of the cell where it joins the branch. His measurement for the width of the immersed cells below is half a line, but at the basal parts in large specimens it is much smaller, and in many parts the cells are seen to be quite minute openings over the surface of the corallum.

The fragile lips of the lateral calicles, which are very prominent above and erect or divaricate, are very easily destroyed, the narrow cells becoming more or less obsolescent; while the stronger basal parts of the larger calicles give a rough and ragged appearance to the branches.

The species is very close both to *Madrepora pocillifera* and to *Madrepora laxa*. In *Madrepora pocillifera* the calicles are quite oblique, more open and cochleariform, larger and more crowded; in *Madrepora laxa* the differences seem to be less marked, but the calicles are shorter, not fragile, tubo-labellate with a thickened lip which is not flattened, but almost verruciform in many parts.

*Locality*.—Mactan Island, Philippines.