

species for its reception. In spiculation it comes very close to *Halichondria panicea*, while its general form suggests *Rhizochalina*.

*Locality*.—Station 203, October 31, 1874; lat. 11° 6' N., long. 123° 9' E.; Philippine Islands; depth, 12 to 20 fathoms; bottom, mud. One specimen.

Genus *Petrosia*, Vosmaer (Pls. II., III.).

1862. *Reniera* (?), Schmidt, Spong. Adriat. Meer., p. 76.

1863. *Schmidtia*, Balsamo-Crivelli, Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat., vol. v. p. 293.

1864. *Thalysias, pars*, Duchassaing and Michelotti, Spongiaires de la mer Caraïbe, &c.

1885. *Petrosia*, Vosmaer, Bronn's Klass. u. Ordnung. d. Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 338.

Sponge usually hard or even stony; generally with numerous, well-defined, large oscula. Skeleton more or less confused; spicules oxeote to strongylote, usually short and thick, packed close together in tracts.

The most obvious feature of this genus is its hard, often stony texture. Vosmaer has changed the older name *Schmidtia* into *Petrosia*, because the former was found to be already occupied.

*Petrosia similis*, Ridley and Dendy (Pl. II. fig. 10; Pl. III. figs. 3, 4).

1879. *Thalysias subtriangularis*, Carter, Phil. Trans., vol. clxviii. p. 287.

1886. *Petrosia similis*, Ridley and Dendy, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. xviii. p. 327.

Sponge (Pl. III. figs. 3, 4) variable in external form, repent, branching; branches sometimes anastomosing, subangular or cylindrical, with large circular oscula arranged in series on the upper surface; or erect and lobate with large circular oscula at the summits of the lobes. We have here two very distinct types of external form in the same species. The repent specimens (Pl. III. fig. 3) are very much broken; the best measures 93 mm. in length by about 12 mm. in diameter, and bears nine large circular oscula arranged in a single row along its upper surface. There is only one lobate specimen (Pl. III. fig. 4), which in external form bears some resemblance to *Clathria elegantula*, nobis (cf. Pl. XXVIII. fig. 3), and measures 81 mm. in height by 87 in width. *Colour* in spirit yellowish-grey. *Texture* (of the lobate specimen) firm and almost incompressible, fibrous; (of the repent specimens) much more yielding to the touch, easily compressible, fibrous but brittle. *Surface* smooth but uneven and harsh to the touch; often with a reticulate appearance owing to the reticulations of the skeleton fibre, which show through the dermal membrane. *Dermal membrane* distinct, translucent, firmly adherent to the underlying tissues. *Oscula* large, circular, numerous; sometimes more than 6 mm. in diameter, like great circular pits in the surface. *Pores*, round openings in the dermal membrane, very few seen.