

shows no signs of spiral curvature. Possibly the polyps are on one side of the axis only, but I could not make sure of this as the specimen is dry and almost entirely void of polyps. It differs from *Stichopathes desbonni* (D. & M.), from the same area, in having the spines arranged in close spirals and longitudinally in linear series, instead of in verticils, and from *Stichopathes pourtalesi*, in having the axis straight instead of spirally twisted, and also in the arrangement of the spines, which seems most nearly allied to that of *Stichopathes echinulata*.

The spines are short and conical, but somewhat compressed. In more slender portions of the specimen they are arranged in dextrorse spirals which are about twice the length of a spine apart. Nearer the base the spiral arrangement is lost, and the spines are thicker and stand out horizontally.

*Habitat*.—Off Turk's Island, West Indies (Todd), Brit. Mus.

*Stichopathes? filiformis* (Gray) (Pl. XII. figs. 23, 24).

*Cirrhopathes filiformis*, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 4, vol. ii. p. 444, 1868.

“Coral very slender, thread-like, of equal diameter from end to end, pale brown, with crowded spinules on the surface; the spinules are conical, nearly transparent and spread out nearly horizontally from the axis” (Gray *loc. cit.*).

Gray's type is in the British Museum and was found amongst some reptiles, &c., purchased of Mr Higgins, from Australia. The specimen is in spirit, and measures 52·5 cm. in length, and 0·6 mm. in diameter at the base. The specimen is attached to part of a shell by a dilated base, and is only very slightly tapering. No polyps are preserved. Another specimen, obtained by Dr. Coppinger of H.M.S. “Alert” off N.E. Australia, is also without polyps. The stem is subequal throughout or only slightly tapering; the base is not preserved. This specimen measures 1·1 m. in length and has a diameter of 1·5 mm. Four other small specimens in the British Museum from St. Helena appear to be young forms of this species. They vary from 12 to 18 cm. in length; the largest, which is attached to a bullet, is 0·6 mm. in diameter at the base.

The spines are relatively large, conical, somewhat compressed, and slightly bent upwards. In shape and size they come near to those of *Antipathes dichotoma*, Pallas, but are much more numerous. They are arranged in irregular sinistrorse spirals, which are rather steep. The spines in one longitudinal row are about one and a quarter to one and a half lengths apart. In the young St. Helena specimens a spiral arrangement of the spines is not noticeable, but otherwise they appear to agree with the type specimen.

*Habitat*.—Australia (Gray); N.E. Australia (H.M.S. “Alert,” 1881); St. Helena, in 10 fathoms and under (Lieut. Turton), Brit. Mus.