

but the upper third is reddish brown, becoming fulvous at the tip. The portion above the hook is simple, nearly straight, and scarcely tapering, having a diameter of 1×0.4 mm. near the middle. The branches are regularly alternate; the lower ones are black in the basal portion, but all are membranous and fulvous near the apex. One specimen bears forty-eight branches, all of them being simple and arising at an acute angle, which is rather narrow in the upper portion of the corallum, but much wider below. The two series of branches are alternate, and extend almost in one plane. The lower ones are very long, and are often gently curved upwards towards the apex. The branches rapidly become shorter from the lower ones towards the apex of the stem. The basal branches are 20 cm. long, those about one-third higher are 11 cm., those two-thirds higher 5.7 cm., whilst the apical ones are only 2.5 cm. long. The lower branches are rather farther apart than those above. There are ten branches to 5 cm. below and fifteen in the same distance near the apex.

The spines are very short and conical, with a sharp apex, but all are compressed laterally. They are of the same type as those of *Schizopathes crassa*, but are more numerous. An indication of an irregular dextrorse spiral arrangement is sometimes observable, but more usually three, four, or five spines are arranged at the same level on a branch, forming incomplete verticils. They are also arranged in longitudinal rows, five of which may be counted from one aspect, but the spines are more numerous in some rows than in others (Pl. IX. fig. 4).

The zooids are similar to those of *Schizopathes crassa*, but smaller, and the prominence on which the mouth opens is neither so long nor so cylindrical. The five specimens referred to this species show the zooids in various stages of degeneration. In two of them they are close together from the apex to near the base of the branches—a condition similar to that in *Schizopathes crassa*, and one which I regard as normal. In two others the zooids are normal and close together on the terminal 3 to 8 cm. of a branch, but below that become separated from one another by a considerable interval, as in *Bathypathes*. It should, however, be noted that in the species under consideration the isolated zooids are degenerate; the body of the zooid becomes gradually more and more reduced, until near the base of a branch it is entirely obliterated, and two slender tentacles projecting from the cœnenchyma are all that remain to indicate its position. It is one of these specimens which has been chosen for illustration (Pl. IX. fig. 1). The fifth specimen has the polyps normally distributed on the apical portions of the branches, but those below are almost entirely obliterated. This species is distinguished at a glance from *Schizopathes crassa*, on account of the different relative development of its branches and the greater degree of curvature in the hooked base, which is similar in all the specimens.

Habitat.—Station 195; October 3, 1874; lat. $4^{\circ} 21' S.$, long. $129^{\circ} 7' E.$, off Banda Islands; depth, 1425 fathoms; bottom, blue mud. Four specimens.