

IV.—*Note on Dorvillia agariciformis*. By W. SAVILLE KENT, F.Z.S. &c., of the Geological Department, British Museum.

AT the November meeting of the Royal Microscopical Society, I described, under the above title, a new deep-sea sponge recently purchased for the British Museum by Dr. Gray, which description, with a plate (pl. 66) illustrative of its structure, has subsequently appeared in the December Number of the 'Monthly Microscopical Journal.'

At the time, I observed that some of the spicules figured greatly resembled those of *Pheronema*; and being derived from so great a depth, it was not unreasonable to suppose that spicules of that last-named form had become associated with it. Fuller examination has further strengthened me in this idea; and I now feel satisfied that none of the hex-radiate forms, in addition to figs. 12 & 14, are referable to *Dorvillia*, having simply become entangled with it during contact with examples of other species.

Making these deductions, it will become evident that *Dorvillia* is a representative of the true Tethyidæ, its affinities with which have already been recognized in consequence of the highly developed triradiate character of the spicules and the remarkably firm consistence of its sarcode.

Since the publication of its description I have seen the yet unpublished plates of a form Prof. Wyville Thomson proposes to name *Tisiphonia agariciformis*, taken in one of the earlier expeditions of the 'Porcupine,' which plates have been sent by that gentleman to Dr. Gray only within the last few days. *Dorvillia* and this will probably prove to be identical; and had I been favoured with a sight of these plates in time, I should certainly have withheld its description. I would nevertheless remark that a brief but speedy notice of the most interesting forms collected, preparatory to the excellent and elaborate monographs in course of construction, would serve to efface the present feelings of fear and trembling with which one proceeds to describe any new accessions, while at the same time it would conduce greatly to satisfy the hopes long deferred with which zoologists on all sides are expectantly awaiting an account of the immense amount of material the late expeditions have afforded.

The plates of *Tisiphonia* here alluded to seem to include, as its young condition, Prof. Perceval Wright's *Wyville-Thomsonia Wallichii*, described in the 'Quarterly Journal of Microscopical Science' for Jan. 1870; and though *Dorvillia* is the first full account published, Prof. Wright's name, in the

event of its proving identical, is perhaps entitled to precedence. Dr. Oscar Schmidt, on inspection of Prof. Wyville Thomson's plates, is inclined to refer it to his genus *Stelletta*, from the ordinary forms of which it differs only by its possession of long depending fascicles of anchoring-spicula, which he regards as merely special developments enabling it to adapt itself to the soft oozy condition of the bottom at the great depths at which it has been taken.

V.—*List of Coleoptera received from Old Calabar, on the West Coast of Africa.* By ANDREW MURRAY, F.L.S.

[Continued from vol. vi. p. 482.]

TECTON*.

Broader in front than behind; clothed with a close pile. Head large, broad, and with a wide space between the antennæ, which is not hollowed; slightly prominent on the vertex, inflexed and cut straight, slightly raised from small antenniferous tubercles. Clypeus transverse. Labrum subquadrate. Eyes almost bifid, large. Antennæ starting from the division between the upper and under part of the eyes, nearly of the length of the body, not robust, and nearly of equal thickness, except the first article; with eleven elongate and subequal articles. Thorax widest in front, of the breadth of the head, constricted near the base, and without any lateral spine; but a trifling elevation may be distinguished behind the middle. Scutellum large. Elytra subcylindrical, scarcely broader than the thorax, slightly attenuated towards the base. Abdomen with five segments. Legs short; tibia subtriangular in the middle, moderately emarginate.

M. Chevrolat regards this genus as the representative in Africa of the American *Oncideres*. In respect that it is somewhat allied to *Prosopocera*, it may be so, for that genus is the true representative of *Oncideres*; but I feel much doubt as to the proper place of this genus. It by no means strikes me as so close to *Oncideres* as M. Chevrolat supposes.

Tecton quadrisignatum, Chevr. Rev. et Mag. d. Zool.
Zool. 1855, p. 185. Pl. III. fig. 9†.

Pilo dense cervino cinereoque indutum; lineolis fusco-nigris duabus in thorace et in elytris basi extensis; capite longitudine antice carinato posticeque sulcato; thorace cum

* From τέκτων, a carpenter.

† Of vol. vi. of the 'Annals.'



Saville-Kent, William. 1871. "IV.—Note on *Dorvillia agariciformis*." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 7, 37–38.

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