

(Plate VI., fig. 3.)

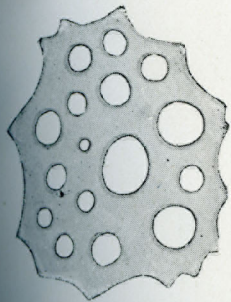
One specimen from Aldabra, near Île d'Esprit, collected by Mr. J. C. F. Fryer. 75 mm. long.

External Characters.—The specimen is evidently very much contracted owing to its preservation in spirit. Hence the body has a wrinkled appearance, and the ambulacral appendages are in a contracted condition. The ambulacral appendages consist of papillæ only, which are irregularly scattered over the whole body and show no arrangement with rows. The colour of the trivium is chocolate-brown with a yellowish-white circle 2 mm. in diameter around each papilla, thus producing a distinctly mottled appearance. The white patches seem to coalesce towards the posterior end of the body. The same contrast of colours is presented on the bivium, except that the brown is of a much darker shade, and is present along the middle of the back as a series of irregular patches which appear to be disposed in pairs. About five pairs of such markings are discernible, the smallest being about 8 mm. in diameter. In the same way the white does not confine itself to the papillæ, but in many places, especially towards the posterior end, there are large patches of white. Thus the bivium is not so regular in its markings as the trivium. There are five groups of papillæ around the anus. The tentacles are not present. The integument is very hard to the touch.

Internal Structure.—The calcareous ring is fairly large and the radials are massive. There is one long Polian vesicle and one small stone canal on the right side of the dorsal mesentery. The left respiratory tree is shorter, but more voluminous, than the right. Cuvierian organs are present.

Spicules.—These consist of tables and buttons. The tables are somewhat irregular, the disc has a diameter of 66 μ , and the edge of the disc is uneven, and sometimes spiny. The disc is perforated by a varying number of holes up to twenty-four. There is no large central hole. The tower is very short and irregular, and in many instances there appears to be only an irregular spiny mass on the disc in place of a tower. Sometimes a short tower can be seen surmounted by a number of spines. The buttons are knobbed and irregular and have a length of about 45 μ . The typical number of holes is six, but there is great variation in this respect, as also in the irregularities of the surface. The papillæ are supported by tables and buttons similar to those in the general integument, and in addition there are perforated "cups" 20 μ in length, and elongated rods 75 μ in length, with perforations at the centre and the extremities. The papillæ have rudimentary terminal plates.

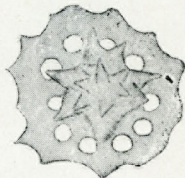
Remarks.—This species is evidently allied to *Holothuria aculeata*, Semper, both as regards its external appearance to some extent and also its internal structure. The tables, however, differ from those described by Semper. Semper describes his species as being uniformly yellowish-white on the trivium and darker on the bivium, the latter being irregularly streaked with dark brown; and this description agrees very closely with the colour of the specimen under examination.



3a



3f



3c



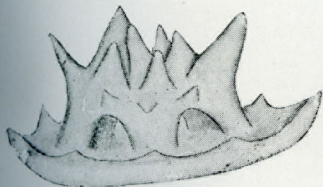
3g



3d



3e



3b