

STICHOPUS ECNOMIUS,<sup>1</sup> sp. nov.

Plate 2, fig. 24-29.

Length 9 mm.; diameter about 3 mm. Body-wall arched; ventral surface flat. Papillae very conspicuous in two dorsal series and a lateral one on each side, at the margin of the ventral surface; there are 7-10 papillae in each series. Pedicels scattered on the ventral surface without definite arrangement in longitudinal series, of unequal size, more abundant posteriorly than anteriorly. Tentacles closely crowded about the mouth, apparently only twelve or thirteen in number.

Calcareous deposits, tables of two kinds and rosettes. Ordinary tables (Plate 2, fig. 24) moderately large, with squarish disks and spires; disks about 60  $\mu$  across with four large and four smaller holes, and usually one or more peripheral holes in addition. Extraordinary tables (Plate 2, fig. 27-29) occur in the pedicels but particularly in the papillae, in place of supporting rods, which seem to be quite absent. These tables have no definite shape and no two are exactly alike; they range in size from 50 to 200  $\mu$  across; sometimes several rods are more or less united by cross-bars somewhat like a spire, and in other cases anastomosing branches may cause an appearance like an irregular and incomplete disk, but as a rule there is no resemblance to a true table. In a few cases the rods, 4-6 in number, lie in the same plane and show some symmetry, and these form a connecting link with the rosettes, though they are much larger, fully 150  $\mu$  across. The rosettes are very remarkable for the number of the dichotomous divisions and

<sup>1</sup> ἐκνόμιος = unusual, strange, in reference to the remarkable deposits.

the shortness and curvature of the branches; the two figured (Plate 2, fig. 25, 26) are the two simplest observed; as the divisions increase in number, they apparently cease to lie in one plane and the most complex rosettes are much flattened ellipses of a close and irregular network; the rosettes are usually about 60-70  $\mu$  long.

Color, in life, "yellow, with blue nodular spines"; the preserved specimen is uniformly dull yellow-brown.

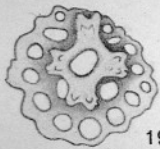
HOLOTYPE M. C. Z. 890. Jamaica: Montego Bay, "on rocks in front of laboratory." 28 August, 1910. E. A. Andrews coll.

This remarkable little species is quite unlike anything I collected in Jamaica. It is obviously too young to fix its generic position, so that it is not impossible that it is not a *Stichopus*. The tables and rosettes, the form of the body and the arrangement of pedicels and papillae are quite *Stichopus*-like. The absence of C-shaped bodies is not significant in view of the youth of the specimen. On the whole, it seems more likely that it belongs to *Stichopus* than to any other known genus. But it is not impossible that it will prove to be a young *Holothuria*, and it is not inconceivable that it represents one of the earliest stages in the development of the common *H. floridana*.

17

18

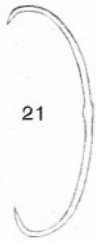
23



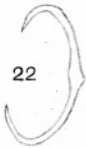
19



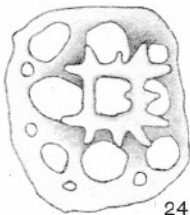
20



21



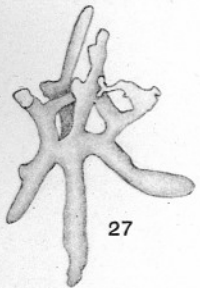
22



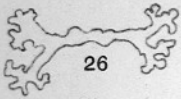
24



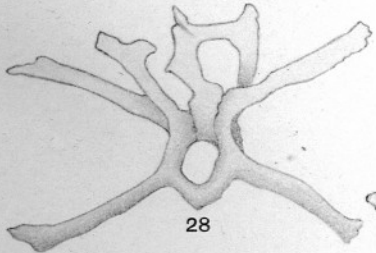
25



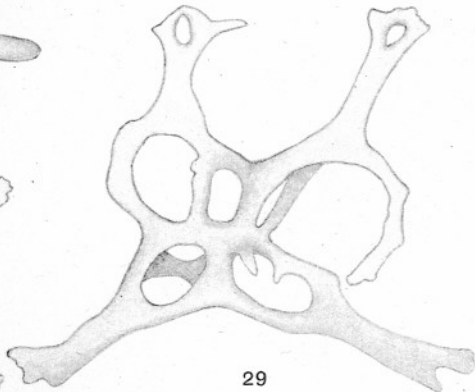
27



26



28



29