

STICHOPUS SIMULANS, sp. n. (Plate 11, fig. 5.)

1897. *Stichopus mollis*, Dendy (*pars*), Journ. Linn. Soc., Zool. vol. xxvi. p. 48.

A single specimen of this species was briefly described by one of us under the heading of *Stichopus mollis*. As we have now obtained another example, possessing the dichotomously foliaceous spicules, from Resolution Island, we feel justified in proposing a new specific name.

In the specimen now before us the body is rounded at both ends and exhibits pronounced dorsal and ventral surfaces, the latter being much narrower than the former. The specimen is 3.5 cms. in length and 1.9 cms. in greatest breadth. The integument is very much contracted and folded. The colour is brown on the dorsal surface and pale brown on the ventral; in addition, pale streaks occur on both lateral surfaces. Four bands of very large papillæ, each terminating in a sucker, run along the dorsal surface, these papillæ reaching as much as 0.7 cm. in diameter in the contracted state.

In its present condition the ventral surface is deeply corrugated transversely. A dirty-white stripe runs down the mid-ventral line, and brown spots are sparingly scattered over the pale brown background of this surface. Tube-feet appear to be quite absent from the ventral surface.

There are twenty bushy tentacles, of approximately equal size, arranged round the ventrally situated mouth. Surrounding the buccal depression, which contains the retracted tentacles, is a complete circle of the large conical papillæ ending in suckers.

The anus, as usual, is a round aperture at the posterior end of the body.

The body-wall is very thick and tough, resembling that of *S. mollis*, and the spicules in it are confined to the outer portion. Of these there are two kinds:—

- (i) Large numbers of the characteristic tables, which have the spire supported by four rods, these rods being united by two diagonal cross-bars about halfway up from the base (Pl. 11, fig. 5 a). These are identical both in form and size with those of *S. mollis*.
- (ii) Large numbers of the small spicules (about .03 mm. in length) which have been described as dichotomously foliaceous in form (fig. 5 b). These occur most abundantly in the depressions of the surface, where they form an almost continuous layer. They form such a definite character that there can be no doubt about the specific distinctness of this form.

