truncated branches of the dermal fibro-reticulation; *b*, interstice of the same; *c c c*, layer of dermal sarcode, covering the same; *d*, pores in the sarcodal layer; *e*, square portion of the sarcode, filled in with *f*, dermal acerates; *g*, bihamates; and *h*, pigmental cells. Scale 1-48th to 1-6000th inch.

Fig. 9. *Tethya* ——— ? undescribed (no. 452, reg. no. 40. 10. 23. 8 in the British Museum), zone-spicule of. Scale 1-48th to 1-1800th inch. For comparison with fig. 7, *b b*.

XLVII.—*New Genus of Sponges.*

By H. J. Carter, F.R.S. &c.

[Plate XV. fig. 10, *a–e*.]

Monanchora clathrata, Crtr., n. sp. et gen.

The specimen of this sponge, which is in the Bowerbank general collection at the British Museum, bears a label on which is written "Freemantle, W. Australia, G. Clifton," but has been rendered so irregular in shape from having been exposed to the action of the waves on the shore, where it was probably picked up for preservation, that it is impossible now to state what this was or to say any more than that its structure is massive and cancellous or clathrous throughout, with a crumb-of-bread texture in appearance and a tawny colour (Pl. XV. fig. 10). The spiculation, however, is *unique*, inasmuch as it presents a sub-pinlike skeletal with a single but remarkable form of flesh-spicule. The former consists of a curved, smooth, pointed shaft, increasing gradually up to the head, which is subterminally inflated, 93 by 2½-6000ths inch in its greatest dimensions (fig. 10, *a*); also another spicule of the same length, but much thinner, with an ovoid terminal inflation resembling that of the skeletal spicule of an *Esperia* (fig. 10, *b*). The latter or flesh-spicule is shaped like the letter C with a straightish back, under a low power like the equianchorate of *Halichondria incrustans* (fig. 10, *c*), but when more magnified is found to have *five* linear arms at each end, that, extending a little inwards towards the centre of the shaft, present a claw-like appearance; these in length are about one fourth of that of the whole spicule, which is 7-6000ths inch, and together form an equianchorate flesh-spicule (fig. 10, *d*, *e*). Size of specimen about 2½ inches in horizontal diameter by 1½ inch high.

Hab. Marine.

Loc. Freemantle, W. Australia.

Obs. The form of the flesh-spicule is, so far as is known, unique, although the skeletal spicules and structure of the sponge generally without this combination would be nothing extraordinary. There is, however, a tendency in the latter to a polygonal character (fig. 10); and the surface-interstices were tympanized with sarcode, in which probably the pores were situated.

The nearest approach in form to the flesh-spicule is the *inequi*anchorate represented by Dr. Bowerbank in fig. 135 (Mon. B. S. vol. i. p. 249, pl. vi.), which came from a "parasitical" sponge also found at Freemantle, in Australia, and is likened to an *Esperia* (*Hymeniacidon*, Bk.).

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XV. fig. 10, *a–e*.

Fig. 10. *Monanchora clathrata*, n. gen. et sp., natural size of specimen. *a* and *b*, skeletal spicules; *c*, flesh-spicule. More magnified view of the latter: *d*, front view; *e*, lateral view.

XLVIII.—*On* Mustela albinucha, *Gray*.

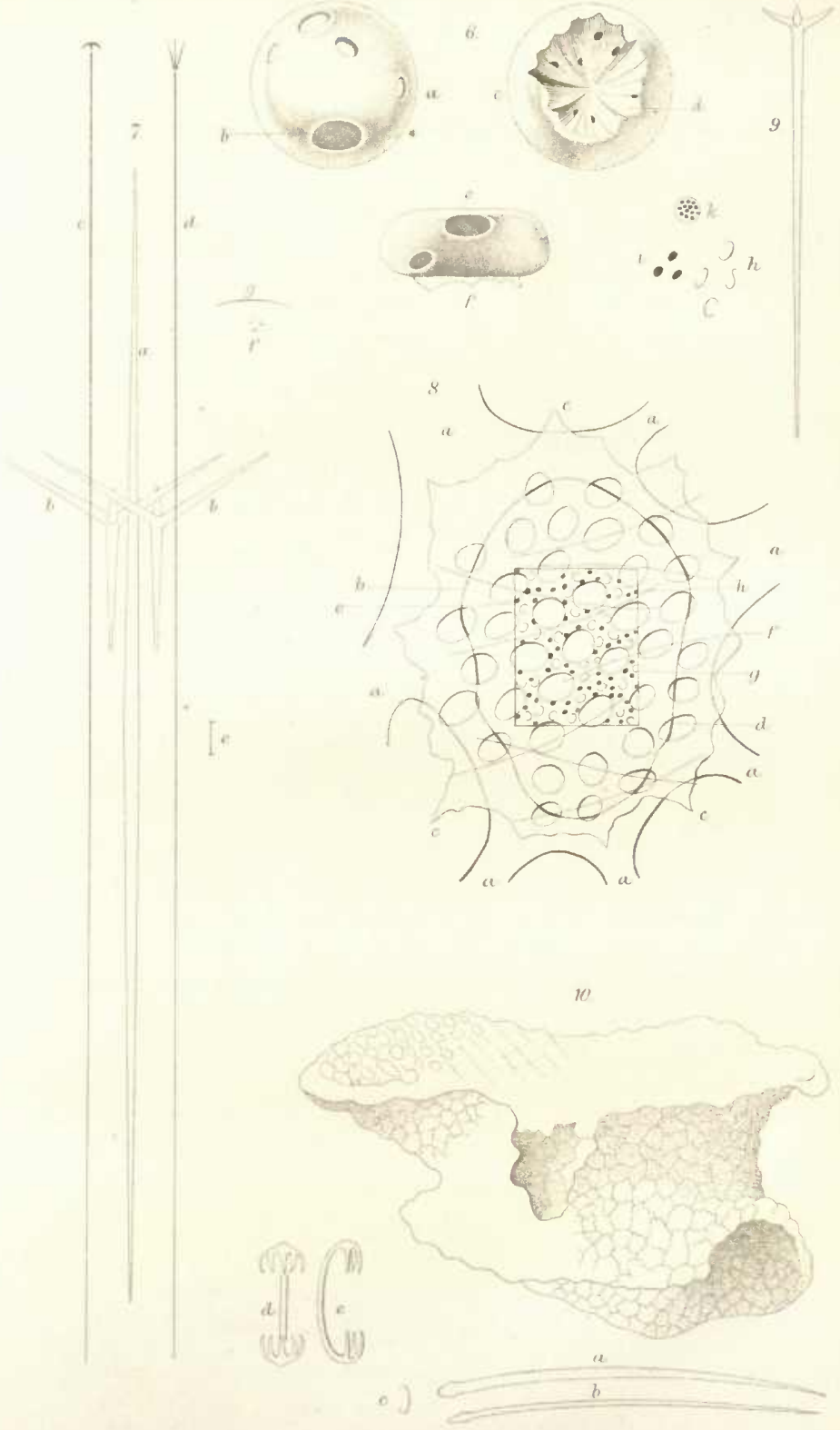
By Oldfield Thomas, F.Z.S., British Museum.

In the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1864 (p. 69), the late Dr. Gray described and figured a brightly coloured weasel from South Africa, under the name of *Zorilla albinucha*; but afterwards, in his 'Catalogue of the Carnivora in the British Museum' (1869, p. 90), he stated that it was a "*Mustela* having the coloration of a *Zorilla*." On an examination of its skull, however, I find that it should be referred to a new genus, on account of the remarkable reduction in the number of its teeth, and of various differences in the general character of its skull. In all I have examined five specimens, of which four are in the British Museum and one is in the Paris Museum. I would propose for the genus the name of *Pœcilogale**. Its dental formula is as follows:—

$$\text{I. } \tfrac{3}{3}, \text{C. } \tfrac{1}{1}, \text{P.M. } \tfrac{2}{2}, \text{M. } \tfrac{1}{1} \text{ (rarely } \tfrac{1}{2}) \times 2 = 28 \text{ (or 30)}.$$

The anterior premolars in both upper and lower jaws are entirely absent; and the minute posterior lower molar present in all other Mustelidæ, with the exception mentioned below, is absent in all the British Museum specimens, but present in

* From ποικίλος, meaning either "particoloured" (which the only species is) or "cunning" (which any weasel may be safely presumed to be).



H.I.C. del.

Mintern Bros. sc.