

corky-looking substance reducing them to round tube-like holes and rising into spirally arranged ridges between them; but the ridges, instead of having a continuous glassy skeleton, have their soft substance supported by a multitude of delicate six-rayed separate spicules interspersed with the usual minute siliceous stars and rosettes. The sponge is hirsute, with sheaves of feathered spicules which project from the crests of the spiral ridges, and a series of like sheaves of great length replace round the mouth the fretted frill of the Philippine Islands form. The mouth is closed by a very delicate network of a gelatinous substance supported by sheaves of fine needles. The correspondence in form between its ultimate spicules and those of *Euplectella aspergillum* appeared to be so close, that when I first saw this sponge I suspected that it might turn out to be the same thing under different conditions. I am now, however, convinced that the two species are entirely distinct." Of importance, too, is Sir Wyville Thomson's further observation:—"No commensal Crustacean has been found in any of the Atlantic specimens of *Euplectella*."

On *Euplectella aspergillum*, Dr. v. Willemoes-Suhm¹ also made some notes during the Challenger Expedition. He writes:—"A single specimen of the water-pot-like sponge was first accidentally dredged seventy years ago, and this, about thirty years ago (1841) fell into the hands of Owen. High offers for further specimens were then made and the second was purchased at a high price. Eight or ten years ago they were still dear, when suddenly the fishermen, induced by this circumstance, discovered in the immediate vicinity of the city of Zebu, a place from which they captured *Euplectella* in abundance by means of an apparatus, constructed of bamboo rods and provided with hooks, which was pulled along the sea bottom. The sponge lives at this place at a depth of 100 fathoms in blackish mud. During our stay in Zebu the ship proceeded one day to the place in question for the purpose of procuring specimens. A bamboo apparatus from a fishing boat and a small dredge from the ship were simultaneously lowered. While, however, the former procured an abundant supply, we got nothing, and only the force of one of the large dredges was sufficient to tear up the sponges, which were evidently in great numbers, but very firmly implanted in the mud." A detailed account of the capture of *Euplectella aspergillum* by the fishermen of Zebu, and of the apparatus used for the purpose, has been given by Chimmo in a paper² which appeared independently, and is accompanied by a plate.

With Chimmo's account, the report given by Moseley³ of the method and apparatus of capture employed by the fishermen of Zebu, entirely coincides.

Agassiz⁴ mentions a specimen of *Euplectella* from the collection of Sponges made by the expedition in the Carribean Sea. It is probably the same specimen which Oscar Schmidt⁵

¹ *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxvi. p. lxxiii.

² Notes by a Naturalist on the Challenger, 1879.

³ *Spongien des Meerbusens von Mexico*, p. 60.

⁴ Natural History of *Euplectella aspergillum*, 1878.

⁵ *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. v., 1879.