

THE  
BRITISH MISCELLANY:

OR

COLOURED FIGURES

OF

NEW, RARE, OR LITTLE KNOWN

ANIMAL SUBJECTS;

MANY NOT BEFORE ASCERTAINED TO BE INHABITANTS  
OF THE BRITISH ISLES;

AND

CHIEFLY IN THE POSSESSION OF THE AUTHOR,

JAMES SOWERBY, F.L.S.

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE PHYSICAL SOCIETY OF GÖTTINGEN;

DESIGNER OF ENGLISH BOTANY AND EXOTIC BOTANY; AND

AUTHOR OF ENGLISH FUNGI AND BRITISH MINERALOGY.

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Let no presuming impious railer tax  
Creative Wisdom, as if aught was formed  
In vain, or not for admirable ends.

.....  
And lives the man whose universal eye  
Has swept at once th' unbounded scheme of things?

*Thomson's Seasons, line 318, &c.*

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VOL. I.

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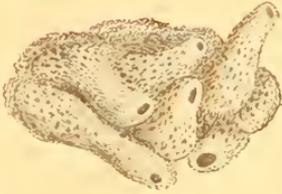
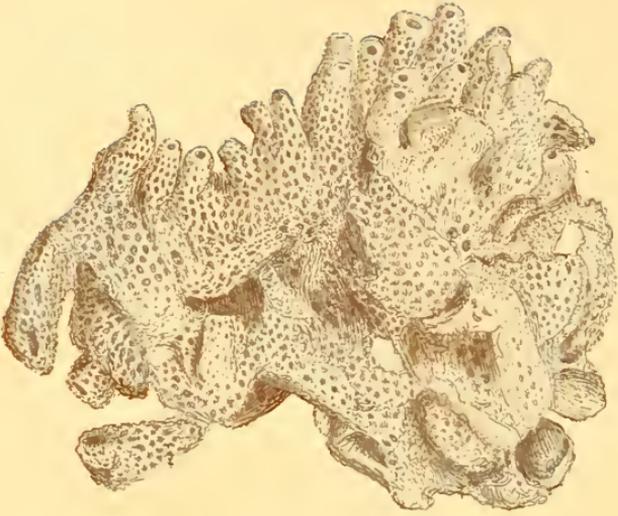
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MDCCCVI.



Oct. 1. 1805. L. 33/And. by J. S. Sowerby, London.

## TAB. XLII.

## SPONGIA compacta.

*Compact Tubular Sponge.*


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Class 6. Vermes.      Order 4. Zoophyta.

GEN. CHAR. *Animal* fixed, flexile, torpid, of various forms, composed either of reticulate fibres, or masses of small spines interwoven together, and clothed with a gelatinous flesh full of small mouths on its surface, by which it absorbs and rejects water.

SPEC. CHAR. Tubular, ramose, composed of spiculæ crossing one another, very compact and brittle.

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WE suspect this has been much confounded with *Spongia tomentosa* (*urens* of Ellis): we however think it at first sight sufficiently different. It appears more like the habitation of an insect with more or less ovate tubular terminations. It is much tougher and more cottony in its texture, has sometimes a smoothish covering towards the mouth of the apertures, which occasionally passes into extreme fine reticulations, over the coarser reticulations on the surface.

We have found it in great plenty at Shellness, and other parts of Sheppey Island, at different seasons; and we

have been favoured with it from the Rev. Hugh Davies, of Anglesea. It is generally found attached to shells, and other marine productions, but apparently detached from rocks, as it is generally among the rejectamenta of the sea. Although we think it may have some curious inhabitant, we have not been so lucky as to detect any; nor do we know that the inhabitants of Sponges have been detected, unless the egg-like substances found in *Spongia fluviatilis* may be such. We hope, however, that those who have opportunity will examine into this subject, as it remains in great doubt. Many foreign Sponges are tubular, and probably ought to be examined on the rocks on which they are formed, to detect the animal.



*Handwritten text, likely a species name or description, partially illegible.*

## TAB. XLIII.

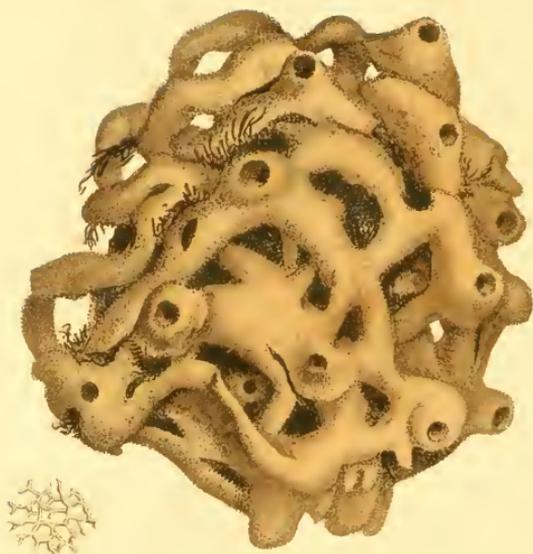
## SPONGIA pulchella.

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SPEC. CHAR. Composed of fine reticulations, smooth and soft in appearance, generally compressed and broad.

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I FIRST received this sponge from Ireland, brought from thence by Mr. Browne (who was engaged in the voyage of discovery to New South Wales) about the year 1800; and in 1802 I received it from North Wales by favour of the Rev. Hugh Davies. It is extremely irregular as to shape, although sometimes approaching to a fan shape, and sometimes rather palmate or digitate. Its fibres are delicately reticulate. It varies in colour, somewhat like the *Spongia officinalis* or common Sponge, from a palish brown to a yellowish or reddish brown. It is however readily discerned by its less coarse appearance. Its texture may be somewhat more rigid.



*Feb. 1. 1836. Published by Jas. Sowerby, London.*

## TAB. LX.

## SPONGIA cancellata.

*Cancellated Sponge.*


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<i>Class</i> 6. Vermes.	<i>Order</i> 4. Zoophyta.
<i>Gen.</i> Spongia.	<i>Spec.</i> cancellata.

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THIS remarkable Sponge was brought me fresh from Brighton by Mr. Fellows, September 17th 1805. Its cancellated structure distinguishes it at first sight from all others that I have seen either specimens or figures of, especially as British. Besides this structure in the general habit, its fibres are also cancellated or reticulated with a horny appearance when magnified. All spongiæ seem to betray more or less the habitation or nidus of some animal, in the general structure. The kneced appearance and the swelling at the bend of the knee, with the inverted conical aperture, give this assurance. It is rather astonishing that this circumstance has not been ascertained with any certainty.

In the present laudably inquisitive age there is little doubt but it is likely to be found out.