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Article/Chapter Title: On Spongilla

Author(s): Leidy

Subject(s): Porifera, classification

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Dr. Leidy exhibited three broken teeth, consisting of the body of a canine and that of two posterior molars, which, he observed, were fossils from Nebraska Territory, and belonged to an animal closely allied to the genus *Ursus*. The tubercles upon the crown of the molars are more elevated and conoidal than in the recent bears, and the crown of the canine is relatively more robust. He proposed for the animal the name of *Arctodon*.

Dr. L. stated that he was preparing a memoir, in which would be described in detail all the fossil remains of Mammalia from Nebraska Territory, heretofore characterized by him in the Proceedings.

He next presented for examination a species of fresh-water sponge found growing in the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, in the vicinity of Philadelphia, which he characterized as follows:

SPONGILLA FRAGILIS.—Discoidal, lichenoid, growing in patches, flat, oval or circular, lobate at the margin, translucent, yellowish-white or cream-colored. Areolæ distinct, subcircular. Reproductive bodies arranged in a single close layer at the base of attachment of the sponge, shining, whitish-yellow, elevated into a central papilla upon the upper surface.

Measurements.—From $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in diameter by 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines in thickness at the centre and gradually thinning off to the margin.

Habitation.—Grows upon the under side of stones below low water mark in the Rivers Delaware and Schuylkill.

Structure.—Composed of an intertexture of spiculæ about 1-400th of an inch long, having a minutely tuberculated surface, over which is reflected a granulo-cellular membrane.

Remarks.—After the death of the sponge, the areolated tissue macerates off, leaving the reproductive bodies in a close layer attached to the rock. The living sponge is never green, nor does it ever grow exposed to the light.

Dr. L. further stated that another species of fresh-water sponge is not uncommon in our rivers, which grows exposed to the light, and is green in color like the European *Spongilla fluviatilis*, but whether it is specifically distinct from the latter, he has not yet ascertained.

October 28th.

Vice-President WETHERILL in the Chair.

The Committee to which was referred Mr. Lea's paper on the genus *Acostæ*, of D'Orbigny, reported in favor of publication in the Journal.

The Committee to which was referred Mr. Cassin's "Catalogue of the Caprimulgidæ in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," reported in favor of publication. [For this paper see the end of the present number.]

The Committee to which was referred the following paper of Mr. C. Girard, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.