taste by the late Dutch governor, General Ryder, stationed at the Moluccas. It included many of extreme rarity and beauty; amongst others, I had the honour of bringing to this country a beautiful new species of the glassy Nautilus, equal in size to the *Carinaria vitrea* that has been seen in this country, a wax model of which has been exhibited in the British Museum for many years, taken from the original, and I believe unique, specimen in the Museum at the 'Jardin des Plantes,' Paris.

"Mr. Cuming has kindly furnished me with the above locality, having met with a few specimens of the *Corbis Soverbii* in his researches amongst the Philippines, at the island of Negros."

The next paper read was from Mr. Stutchbury, and is entitled, "Description of a new Sponge from Barbadoes."

"The Museum of the Bristol Institution having lately become possessed of a very interesting sponge through the liberality of Dr. Cutting, of Barbadoes, to whom we are also indebted for the 'recent' *Pentacrinus*, 'recent' *Pholadomya*, and numerous other valuable donations; and as this tribe has met with the able attention of microscopists, whose researches appear to have excited considerable interest;—I have thought a brief account of the specimen would be acceptable to naturalists."

"The peculiarities of this very beautiful sponge consist in the following distinctive characters; the most remarkable of which is, its being formed entirely of silex, the reticulate structure of the mass being composed of transparent vitreous tubuli, without any admixture of keratose or calcareous matter; the silex forming the mass itself, and not, as in other instances, arranged as spicula in the horny membranes; consequently, it is perfectly rigid and sonorous when struck.

"When viewed by a simple lens it exhibits a frothy glass-like appearance: under a magnifying power of seventy-five linear, the net-like meshes are seen to be composed of beautiful glassy tubes, anastomosing one with the other in every direction, the external surface of the cylinders having a rugged aspect; the newer or last formed portions appear to emanate from centres, and at certain distances from spherical masses, from which straight tubes again arise, thus forming the reticulate structure.

"Amidst the interstices of the sponge are found numerous small bodies loose and unattached (also composed of silex*), characterized by Ehrenberg under the generic appellation of Xanthidium, of which several species in a fossil state are described as occurring in flints and other siliceous minerals; this minute body may be described as

* In testing the mineral character of the sponge a small portion was examined under the microscope; then placed in a test tube, and upon the addition of dilute hydrochloric acid no effervescence occurred: it was then dried, and again placed in the field of the microscope, when no change appeared to have taken place; upon submitting it to the action of the blowpipe, the only alteration was its losing its glassy aspect by becoming opake, but it was not altered in form.

a spherical mass of tubuli, arising from a centre, each tubular spine being terminated by an expanded conical aperture, and a strong resemblance is at once observed between these bodies and the mode of extension in the newer portions of the sponge itself; this fact, together with that of the perfect siliceous character of these minute bodies, induces me to come to the conclusion that they are not distinct, free animals, parasites to the sponge, but the *gemmules* of the sponge, in which they are found; and I think their increase, so as to become perfect sponges when ejected from the parent mass, can be readily understood by comparing their present form with the recently formed portions of the sponge. Supposing the *gemmule* (*?*) to have arrived at that state which commences its individual life, its increase would not be by an extension of the tubuli in a straight line; but from the edges of the terminal aperture of each spine other and similar tubuli would or might be sent off, and thus the end of every spine become a fresh centre and anastomosing point, and in this way a very slight addition would give the newly formed mass the reticulate and vesicular character of the parent sponge.

"Being anxious to identify the peculiar and entire siliceous character of this sponge with its generic appellation, I have adopted the name of *Dactylocalyx*; the principal characters of which may be thus expressed:—

"Sponge fixed, rigid, siliceous; incurrent canals, uniform in size; excurrent canals large, forming deep sinuosities on the outer surface, radiating from the root to the outer circumference.

"For the species the name *Dactylocalyx pumiceus* is proposed."

A collection of Birds from Australia, presented by J. Olive, Esq., was exhibited.

To Wallie with kind regards
Shirley.
(July 1984)

STO2

THE MARINE FAUNA OF LUNDY

PORIFERA (SPONGES):

By

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