

4.—*Note on the Occurrence of the Euplectellid Sponge Regadrella phoenix* O. Schmidt, off the South African Coast.—By R. KIRKPATRICK.

(Plate I.)

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DR. L. PÉRINGUEY, Director of the South African Museum, has recently sent to the Natural History Museum, London, for identification, two portions of specimens and a photograph of a more complete example of the Euplectellid sponge *Regadrella phoenix* O. Schmidt, dredged from a depth of 250–320 fathoms off Cape Morgan, near East London, Cape Colony; bottom broken shells.

The original examples of the sponge, which were described by Oscar Schmidt in "Die Spongien des Meerbusen von Mexico," came from Barbados (221 and 228 fms.), and Sta Cruz (248 fms.). He called the genus "*Regadrella*" after the Spanish name for a watering-pot, and the species "*phoenix*," because he found young sponges growing on and within the basal part of old dead ones.

In *Regadrella* the strands of spicules which form the lattice-like skeleton of the tube run mainly in a longitudinal direction and somewhat irregularly. In *Euplectella*, on the other hand, the framework is formed of regularly arranged longitudinal and transverse and oblique strands.

In *Regadrella*, the spathulate ends of the secondary rays of the beautiful little floricorne spicules, are prolonged into several sharp claw-like spines.

A characteristic flesh-spicule of the present species is the onychaster, a hexaster with fine claw-like spines at the ends of the secondary rays.

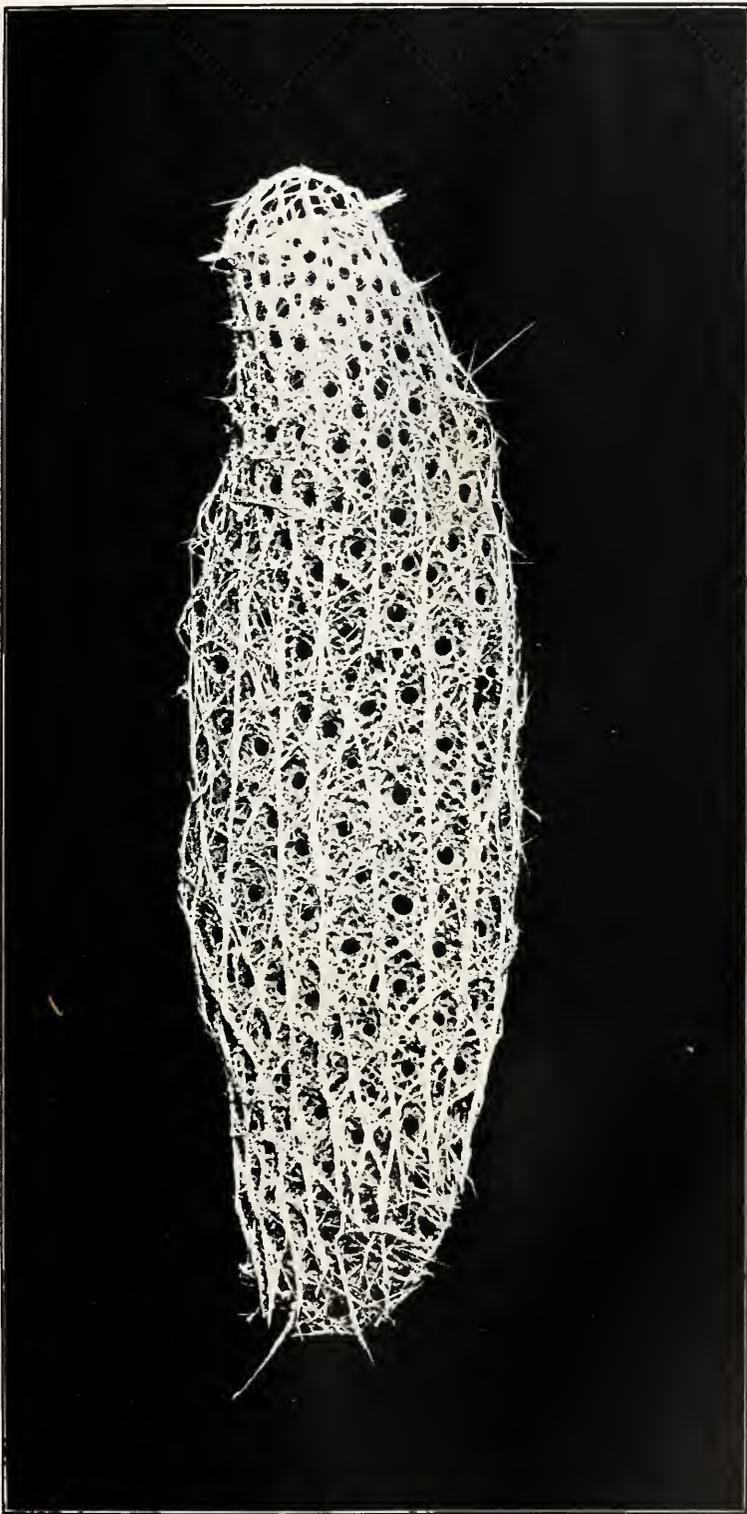
The well-marked sieve-plate is surrounded by a fringe of bristles formed by the distal rays of stout hexactins.

Specimens grow firmly fixed on rocks and stones, and do not form a root-tuft such as *Euplectella* possesses.

The base of the sponge is hard, and fixed on a firm foundation. Consequently, usually only the upper and softer portions of specimens are obtained.

The finding of *R. phoenix* off the south-eastern coast of South Africa is very interesting, for now there is a record of the occurrence of the species in the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, and Pacific, viz., from West Indies, Azores, Bay of Biscay, Atlantic Coast of Morocco (from 220-768 fms.), from Coast of Chile (1,754 fms.), Galapagos (393 fms.), and from off Cape Morgan (250-320 fms.).

According to F. E. Schulze there are only three well-marked species of *Regadrella*, viz., *R. phoenix* O. Schmidt, *R. okinoseana* Ijima, and *R. komeyamai* Ijima, the last two being found in Sagami Bay, Japan.



REGADRELLA PHOENIX O. SCHMIDT  
FROM CAPE MORGAN, S. AFRICA.  $\times \frac{6}{5}$ .

West, Newman.