

of the spicula on the surface. When treated with caustic potash, the internal network is destroyed, leaving only the external spicula placed side by side.

This genus is allied to *Grantia*, but it is easily distinguished by the uniform fusiform shape and the disposition of the spicula.

*APHROCERAS ALCICORNIS.* (Pl. X.)

*Hab.* Hong-Kong (*Dr. Harland*).

This species somewhat resembles *Grantia botryoides* in appearance and habit; but in that species the spicula are all *triradiate*, which appears to be the generic character of the genus *Grantia* as I propose to restrict it.

6. ON *APHROCALLISTES*, A NEW GENUS OF SPONGIADÆ FROM MALACCA. BY DR. JOHN EDWARD GRAY, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., PRESIDENT ENT. SOC.

(Radiata, Pl. XI.)

In 1842 we received from Captain Sir Edward Belcher a Sponge which he obtained in Malacca, which evidently forms a new genus nearly allied to the *Euplectella* of Professor Owen. I therefore have great pleasure in bringing a description of it before the Society.

*APHROCALLISTES.*

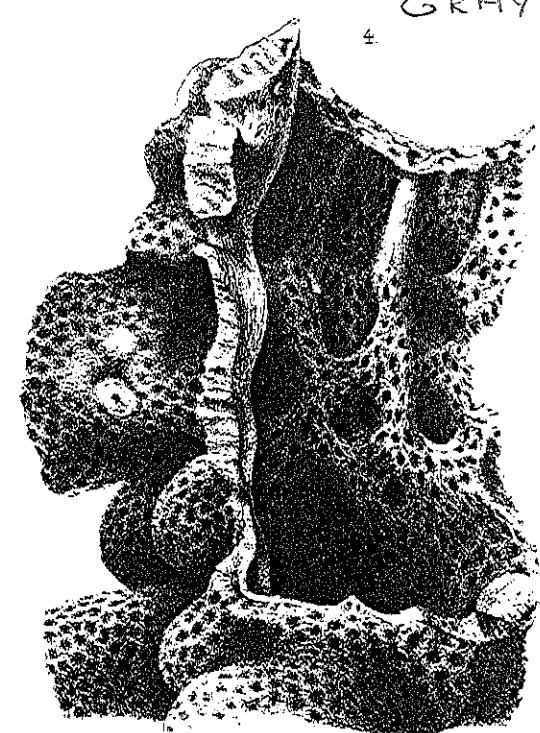
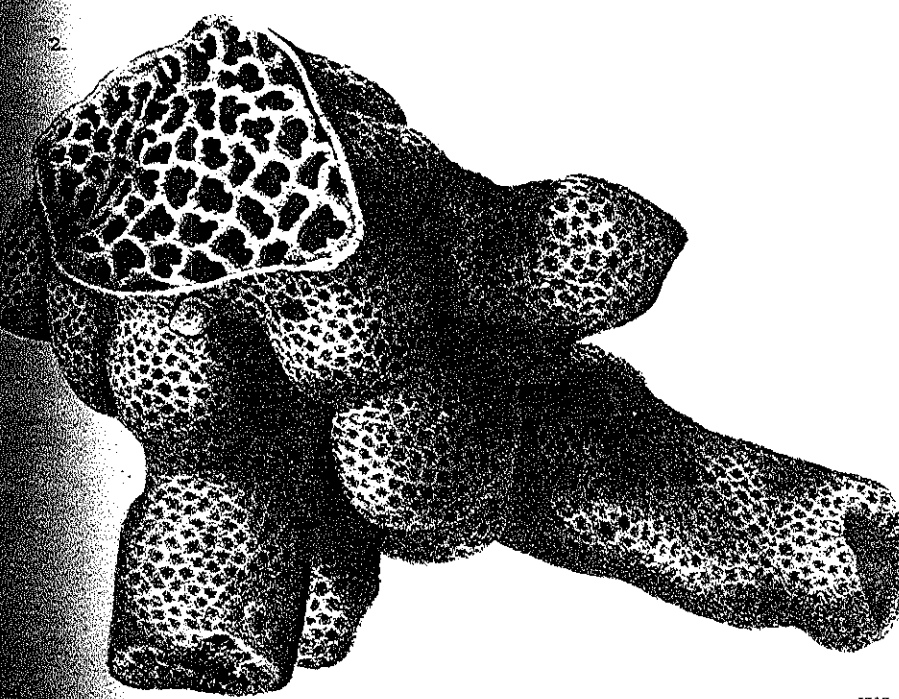
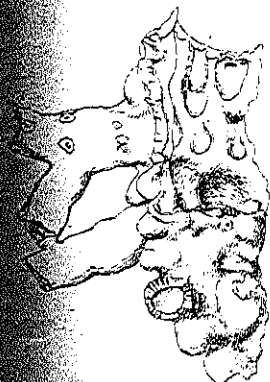
The sponge cylindrical, tubular, branched; the end of the main tube closed with an open network formed of spicula; branches cylindrical, simple, rarely bifid, rounded and closed at the end; the inner surface of the tube with large unequal-sized concavities placed in longitudinal series, having a large roundish oscule near its lower edge.

The sponge hard, calcareous, with uniform, close, equal, regular hexangular pores on the surface, and larger round ostioles in series on the sides of the main tube. The outer surface formed of intertangled transparent spines, which inosculate and unite with each other at the intersection, forming a hard, rather brittle crust. The inner surface lined with a coat of fusiform transparent spicula, which are placed in bangles parallel to each other in the spaces between the roundish internal apertures of the crowded small superficial pores.

This genus is very like *Euplectella* of Professor Owen in its external form, and especially in the upper part of the tube being closed with network.

It differs from that genus in being more irregularly formed and branched, and in the structure and calcareous composition of the sponge itself.

In that genus the basis of the tube is formed of ropes of elongated spicula placed at right angles longitudinally and transversely to the



*APHROCALLISTES BEATRIX* Gray.

1.3. Natural size. 2 4. Magnified.

axis of the tube, and covered with a more or less thick coat of smaller spicula. In this genus the mass of the sponge is formed of small spicula, which inosculate and are united together, forming a rather hard mass pierced with numerous closed, small, uniform hexangular pores, lined internally with a thin layer formed of elongate fusiform spicula placed parallel in bundle in a more or less longitudinal direction round the inner mouth of the pores.

The main tube is smaller at the base, gradually enlarges upward, and is then subcylindrical and irregular on the surface.

When examined externally, eight or ten longitudinal ridges are observed, between which are placed a more or less regular series of unequal-sized squarish concavities; at the lower edge of each is to be observed a large round oscule, commencing with the outer surface.

APHROCALLISTES BEATRIX. (Pl. XI.)

*Hab.* Malacca.

We have in the British Museum an imperfect specimen of *Euplectella*, which was brought home by Capt. Sir Edward Belcher at the same time as the above.

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March 9, 1858.

Dr. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read:—

I. A MONOGRAPH OF THE GENUS *MINIOPTERIS*.

By ROBERT F. TOMES.

(Mammalia, Pl. LXV.)

Perhaps there is no order of Mammalia in which there is so great a diversity in the forms of the different species as in the *Cheiroptera*. On examining the genus *Vespertilio* in the extended form in which it is given by M. Temminck, and more recently by M. Wagner, the naturalist will find an assemblage of creatures which he will have great difficulty in making out to his satisfaction. But in endeavouring to separate them into groups or genera for the purpose of description, he will be equally puzzled. An examination of the British species merely, will illustrate the nature of the difficulty to which I refer. Take, in the first place, the common *Noctule Bat*, and the equally common *Whiskered Bat*, the one exhibiting a heavy muscular body, and strong wings capable of vigorous and sustained flight, and with jaws and teeth of sufficient size and power to masti-