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XVII.—NOTES ON FRESHWATER SPONGES.

By N. Annandale, *D.Sc.*, *Superintendent, Indian Museum.*

IX.—Preliminary Notice of a Collection from Burma, with the Description of a New Species of *Tubella*.

The collection, of which this paper forms a preliminary account, was made by myself and a native collector in Rangoon and in the Amherst district of Tenasserim during the latter half of February and the first half of March of the present year. The following species were found:—

Spongilla proliferens, mihi, in ponds at Rangoon and in a lake at Kawkareik, Amherst district.
,, *carteri*, Bwk., in ponds at Rangoon and (gemmules) on the surface of the lake at Kawkareik.
Ephydatia indica, mihi, in the Moulmein waterworks and in a jungle pool near Kawkareik.
Trochospongilla latouchiana, mihi, in the lake at Kawkareik.
,, *phillottiana*, mihi, in a jungle pool near Kawkareik.
Tubella vesparioides, sp. nov., in the Kanghyi ("great pond") at Mudon, near Moulmein, Amherst district.

The only other form known from Burma is Kirkpatrick's *Spongilla loricata* var. *burmanica*, which was described in the last number of these *Records* (vol. ii, p. 97). Thus, five out of the seven species now known from the province are also common in Lower Bengal, while only two, both widely distributed forms, have been found in Western India.

The new species of *Tubella*, of which a diagnosis follows, is closely related to *T. vesparium* (Martens) from Borneo, differing from this species in its smooth, amphioxous skeleton spicule and in the deeply indented rotule of its gemmule spicule.

Tubella vesparioides, sp. nov.

Closely related to *T. vesparium* (Marts.).

Sponge massive, without branches, hard but brittle, almost black in colour (dry); the surface covered with a network of stout spicule fibres, the interstices of which are more or less deeply sunk, with sharp fibres projecting vertically upwards at the nodes; the whole mass pervaded by a similar network, which is composed of a considerable number of spicules lying parallel to one another, overlapping at the ends and bound together by a profuse secretion of spongin. Skeleton spicules rather

stout, smooth, amphioxous, bent in a wide arc or, not infrequently, at an angle. No true flesh spicules. Gemmule spicules terminating above in a rounded, knoblike structure and below in a relatively broad, flat rotule, which is very deeply and irregularly indented round the edge when mature, the spicule having the form of a sharp pin with a round head at an earlier stage of development; shaft of adult spicules projecting slightly below the rotule, long, slender, generally armed with a few stout conical spines, which stand out at right angles to it. Gemmules numerous throughout the sponge, spherical, provided with a short, straight foraminal tubule, surrounded by one row of spicules, which are embedded in a rather thin granular coat.

Average	length of skeleton spicule	..	0·316 mm.
,,	breadth of skeleton spicule	..	0·0135 ,,
,,	length of gemmule spicule	..	0·046 ,,
,,	diameter of rotule ..	..	0·0162 ,,
,,	diameter of gemmule ..	..	0·446 ,,