

edged by an elegant frill. The mouth is closed by a wide-meshed netted lid. The walls of the tube are formed by a number of parallel longitudinal bands of glassy siliceous fibres closely united together by a cement of silica, and a series of like bands running round the tube, and thus cutting the longitudinal bands at right angles and forming a square-meshed net. The corners of the squares are then filled in with a minute irregular fret-work of siliceous tubing, and the openings in the wall of the sponge become rounded. Ornamental ridges of the same fine fret-work are arranged in irregular spirals on the outer surface, and round the bottom of the tube a fringe rises of glistening threads of silica four or five inches long.

In 1859, Professor Owen described what he considered a second species of the same genus, *Euplectella cucumer*, from a beautiful specimen procured by Dr. Arthur Farre from the Seychelles. In form, Dr. Farre's specimen was more inflated, more like a cucumber, as its name implies; but in minute structure the two are identical, and I believe they are merely varieties. For many years these two specimens of the two forms, one in the British Museum, and the other in the possession of Dr. Farre, remained unique. A sponge existed in the gallery in the Jardin des Plantes, procured in the Moluccas during the voyage of the *Astrolabe*, and figured, but not described, by Quoy and Gaimard, which had been confused with *Euplectella*; but a careful examination of the Paris specimen showed that, although belonging to the same group of sponges, it was generically different, and I described it under the name of *Habrodictyon*.

Some years ago, some fine specimens of *Euplectella aspergillum* found their way into the London market, and on account of their great beauty brought high prices. When the principal museums, and the amateurs who will have what they fancy at any price, were supplied, specimens were still to be had among the dealers, and at greatly reduced prices; and finally, when the demand for scientific purposes had nearly ceased, and it was