MORPHOLOGY.

GENERAL STRUCTURE.

In that work of genius the "Kalkschwamme" of Haeckel the Calcareous sponges (*Megamastictora*) are traced both ontogenetically and phylogenetically to a primitive Ascon-like ancestor (*Olynthus*). In the non-calcareous Sponges (*Micromastictora*) the researches of embryologists [1] have made us acquainted with a primitive ontogenetic form which may be distinguished as a Rhagon,[2] but this, unlike the Ascon, is only known in a transitory larval stage, and is not represented by any persistent adult form.

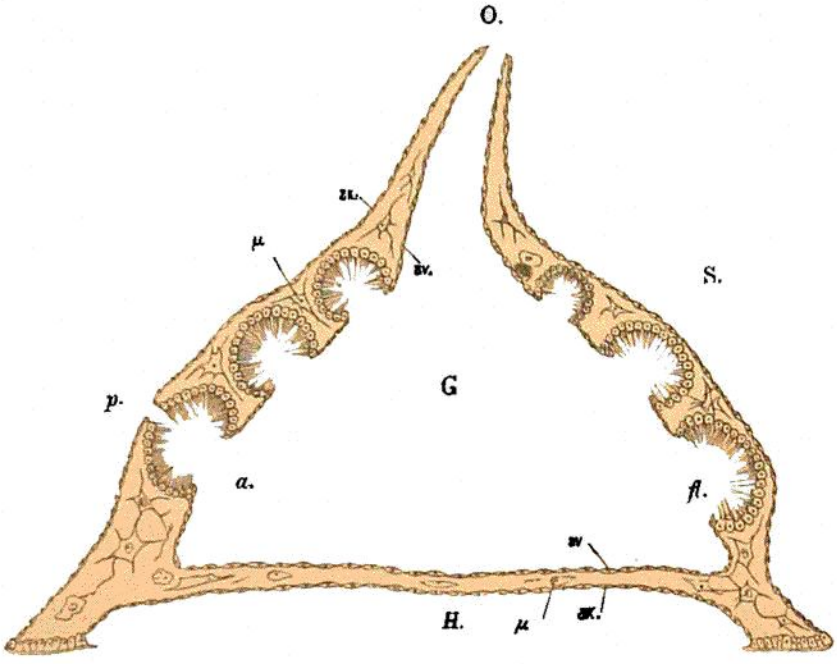

FIG. I.—Diagrammatic vertical median section through a Rhagon. S., spongophare; H., hypophare; O., oscule; G., paragastric cavity; *fl.*, flagellated chamber; *a.*, apopyle; *p.*, prosopyle; *ek.*, ectoderm; *ev.*, endoderm; *μ.*, mesoderm.

It has the form of a more or less hemispherical sac, the upper part (*spongophare* [3]) rising dome-like from a flat attached base (*hypophare*); its walls consist of

[1] Keller, *Reniera fertilis*, *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxxiii. pp. 317–349, pl. xix. fig. 23, pl. xx. fig. 24; Schulze, *Placina monolopha*, *op. cit.*, Bd. xxxiv. pp. 416–423, pl. xxii. fig. 28; Heider, *Oscarella lobularis*, *Arb. Zool. Inst. Wien*, Bd. vi. pp. 1–62, pl. ii. figs. 18–20.

[2] ῥάξ, ῥᾶγος, ἡ, a grape.

[3] φᾶρος, εος, τό, a cloth, sheet, web.