

Genus 1. *Euplectella*, Owen (Pls. I.–VI.; Pl. XIII. figs. 5–7; Pl. XIV. figs. 1–5).

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History.—After a preliminary communication which appeared in 1841,¹ Owen published in 1843 the first accurate description of *Euplectella aspergillum*.² In this somewhat brief, but precise and clear description of a well-preserved skeleton from the Philippines, the structure, as seen by the naked eye, or under the magnifying power of a simple lens, is so thoroughly investigated that later observers have had but little to add to it.

As the most essential difference between his *Euplectella aspergillum* and the *Alcyoncellum speciosum*, Quoy and Gaimard, Owen emphasises the fact that in *Euplectella*

¹ Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., vol. ix. pp. 3–5.

² Trans. Zool. Soc. Lond., vol. iii. pp. 203–205, pl. xiii., 1843.