

In an article on *Semperella (Hyalonema) schultzi* (1869), Gray also expressed an opinion on the relation of *Euplectella cucumer*, Owen, and *Euplectella aspergillum*.¹ He said :—"The different shape of the body of *Euplectella aspergillum* and of *Euplectella cucumer* may indicate that they grow in different situations and circumstances. *Euplectella cucumer* most probably grows in the mud, kept in its place by a mooring of stones, as figured in Professor Owen's plate. The curved form of *Euplectella aspergillum* would lead one to believe that it most probably grows on the side of a perpendicular rock, but I have no proof that this is the case, except the form. If it grew from a horizontal surface, the top of the tube or cloaca would not be uppermost, and the *Euplectella* would not be in the upright position natural to all Sponges and other animals and plants that live on the bottom of the sea."

With regard to the habitat of *Euplectella aspergillum*, Owen, a communication published in the same year, 1869, by Thomas J. Moore,² is of interest. He communicates the account given by a certain Captain Morgan, who observed at Zebu (which is at a distance of three nautical miles from the village of Talisay), the capturing of "Regadera" by the natives. On the two extremities of the transverse beam of a large T-shaped iron apparatus, a long bamboo rod with numerous iron hooks is fixed horizontally on each side. This apparatus is let down upon the muddy ground at a depth of 130 or 135 fathoms, and is dragged over the bottom by the boat, which is carried along by the ebbing tide, until the fisherman observes that something has been caught. On pulling it up, some Regaderas are usually found to have been caught by the hooks. These are at first dirty and of a yellow colour, but after maceration in fresh water they acquire a beautiful appearance. The root tuft of the Sponge remained in the soft muddy or sandy bottom, while the entire upper tubular portion of the body projected freely, and its truncated terminal surface "turned itself towards the setting sun." Another verbal communication made by Captain Morgan to Moore is also noteworthy, since, according to it, the natives only capture the Regadera when the boat is carried onwards in a given direction, but never when it moves in the opposite course.

In the change which Gray³ proposed in 1872 upon his above-mentioned Sponge System of 1867, he placed within the order Coralliospongiæ, and in that section which possesses "hexradiate spines in the sarcode," the family of the Euplectellidæ, including the single genus *Euplectella*, and he referred them to that subdivision in which "the sponge is free, attached to the mud by numerous elongated filamentous spicules surrounding its base," and has "small recurved spines at the end"; the "skeleton being formed of elongated spicules more or less united by siliceous secretion."

The family, and at the same time the somewhat altered generic characters, are now stated as follows :—"Sponge tubular, free, formed of bundles of elongated thread-like

¹ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. ii. p. 377.

³ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. ix. pp. 442-461.

² *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. iii. p. 196.