

which A. B. Meyer had sent to the British Museum from Zebu, one of the Philippine Islands, and named it *Rossella philippinensis*.¹ It was a longish oval specimen as large as a walnut; its transversely truncated upper end bore the wide round orifice of a deep central cavity, while, from the inferior half of the otherwise smooth body, a cylindrical bundle of long siliceous spicules ran out radially at different distances from one another, and then bent downwards into a tuft. That this sponge belongs to the genus *Rossella* was confirmed by Carter in a communication addressed to Gray; the four-armed spicules of the skin with their somewhat backwardly bent branches were to him sufficient proof of the fact. Yet, as Carter remarks, this form may be readily distinguished from *Rossella antarctica* by the fact that the arms of the outer spicules are smooth, and not beset, as in the latter, with delicate microspines.

Carter has also directed attention to the great similarity between the spicules of *Rossella philippinensis* and those found in the genus *Crateromorpha*, Gray.

Wyville Thomson,² gave an account of a third species of *Rossella*, which was dredged in 651 fathoms, to the west of the opening of the Strait of Gibraltar. The oval body of this remarkably elegant sponge, described as *Rossella velata*, bears superiorly (as in *Pheronema*) a single large round osculum, but instead of forming a cup uniformly lined with a netted membrane, the oscular cavity divides at the bottom into a number of branching passages as in *Pheronema annæ* described by Leidy.

“A delicate outer veil about a centimetre from the surface of the sponge is formed by the interlacing of the four secondary rays of large five-rayed spicules which send their long shafts from that point vertically into the sponge body. The surface of the sponge is formed of a network of large five-radiated spicules arranged very much as in *Pheronema*.”

In a paper on Sarcohexactinellidan Sponges,³ Carter has noted that in *Rossella velata* and *Rossella philippinensis* “the minute equi-armed hexradiate spicules pass from the equi-armed hexacts with bifurcated and pointed extremities to the same with capitate extremities, and lastly into an undescribed form where the ends of the arms are terminated by a small conical tuberculated inflation presenting a short straight spine on the apex, which spine is surrounded by almost innumerable linear filaments rising each from one of the tubercles, attaining various heights and bending outward like the expanded petals of a tubular flower, forming one of the most exquisite objects in nature. It might be named ‘pappiform’ flexed and simple in contradistinction to another kind in which the filaments are straight and capitate.”

The generic diagnosis of *Rossella* was given by Carter in his Review of the Hexactinellida⁴ in the following words:—“Rosette few- or many-rayed: rays few of equal length straight and pointed or spinocapitate; or multitudinous, of unequal length,

¹ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. x. pp. 137, 138.

³ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. xi. p. 279.

² *The Depths of the Sea*, p. 418, 1873.

⁴ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. xii. p. 361.