

colonies quelquefois assez distantes les unes des autres. Nous les avons observées à des profondeurs bien définies et cela à partir de 860 mètres jusqu'à 2200 mètres."

"Les *Asconema* ont été trouvées avec les *Aphrocallistes*; les *Hyalonema* et les *Euplectella* étaient presque toujours associées."

A Catalogue of the Fossil Sponges in the Geological Department of the British Museum, which appeared in 1883, contains a thorough account, by G. J. Hinde, of the fossil Sponges in the above museum. The Hexactinellida are thoroughly discussed, and the whole work closely adheres to Zittel's system. In my general survey I may subsequently refer to the fossil Hexactinellids, and shall then rely on Zittel's pioneer work and on Hinde's excellent memoir.

In 1884¹ Zittel demonstrated that the family of Astylospongidae (with the genera *Astylospongia*, F. Römer, *Palæomanon*, F. Römer, *Protachilleum*, Zittel, and *Eospongia*, Billings) belonged not to the Hexactinellida, as had been hitherto supposed, but to the Lithistida, and, in fact, to the group Anomocladina.

In a collection of marine Sponges gathered in Japan by Dr. T. Anderson, Mr. H. T. Carter² notes the occurrence of four Japanese Hexactinellids, namely, *Hyalonema sieboldii*, Gray, *Farrea occa*, Bowerbank, *Periphragella elisæ*, Marshall, and *Hexactinella ventilabrum*, new species, Carter. Of these accurate descriptions are given, based partly on dried specimens. Especially important in this report, as it appears to me, is a clear and comprehensive description of the skeletal parts of *Farrea occa*, Bowerbank, accompanied with excellent figures. A definite and reliable conception of this, hitherto somewhat indistinct, species has thus been established.

¹ *Jahrb. f. Min.*, Bd. ii. p. 75, 1884.

² *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1885, ser. 5, vol. xv. p. 387.