

IV. PORIFERA.

By N. ANNANDALE, D.Sc., F.A.S.B., Superintendent of the
Indian Museum.

In the absence of ponds, lakes and slow-running streams it was not to be expected that sponges would be found in the Abor country, but two species were obtained by Mr. Kemp and Mr. J. Coggin Brown of the Geological Survey in N.-E. Assam. The only species hitherto found in Assam was *Spongilla* (*Euspongilla*) *proliferens*, Annandale, which was taken near Mangaldai to the north of the Brahmaputra by Mr. Kemp on a former occasion and is widely distributed in the Oriental Region. Specimens were found by Messrs. Kemp and Brown on their way to the Abor country at Dibrugarh on the south bank of the Brahmaputra. The same collectors obtained specimens of another sponge (*Spongilla* (*Eunapius*) *crassissima* var. *crassior*, Annandale) in a small muddy pond at Mariani in the Sibsagar district. This form had only been found hitherto at Rajshai (Rampur Bhulia) on the north bank of the Ganges in Bengal, while the typical form of the species is only known from the Gangetic delta and Orissa.

All the specimens from N.-E. Assam were preserved in November. Although apparently killed during a period of full vegetative vigour, they are full of gemmules.

I can detect no buds on the examples of *S. proliferens*, but these structures, although characteristic of the species, are not always present. The gemmules possess well-formed foraminal tubules.

The specimens of *S. crassissima* var. *crassior* agree well with the types except in being of a bright green colour. In external appearance (except as regards colour) they closely resemble *S. decipiens calcuttana*, which belongs to the same subgenus, but they can be easily distinguished therefrom by their much stouter megascleres and more compact skeleton.

S. proliferens is fully described on pp. 72-76 of my volume in the "Fauna" on the Freshwater Sponges, etc. and *S. crassissima* and its variety on pp. 98 and 99 of the same work.