

FRESH-WATER SPONGES IN THE COLLECTION OF THE UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM. PART III. DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SPONGILLA FROM CHINA.

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Among the specimens of fresh-water sponges that the authorities of the U. S. National Museum have been kind enough to send me for examination recently there are several small fragments labeled "Found on rocks in the canal. From N. Gist Gee, Su-chau [southern Kiang Su, near Shanghai], China." So far as I am aware, no fresh-water sponge has as yet been described from China, although I have recently received specimens, unfortunately not determinable, from Mr. J. Coggin Brown, of the Geological Survey of India, who collected them in Lake Tali Fu in Yunnan. The specimens from Su-chau apparently represent a new species of the genus *Spongilla* and the subgenus *Stratospongilla*, which is here described as—

SPONGILLA (STRATOSPONGILLA) SINENSIS, new species.

Sponge consisting of a flat layer some 4 mm. thick, with short cylindrical upright branches; its color (dry) dirty white; the oscula small but clearly defined.

Skeleton compact, reticulate but not very coherent, little spongin being present; the meshes tending to be polygonal, but neither the radiating nor the transverse fibers very clearly defined.

Spicules smooth, slender, short, somewhat abruptly pointed; the gemmule spicules resembling the skeleton spicules except in their smaller size. No flesh spicules.

Gemmules numerous, small, massed together at the base of the sponge, each with a thick outer chitinous coat full of dark granules; the gemmule spicules lying in this coat parallel or nearly parallel to the inner wall of the gemmule. No foraminal tubule.

	<i>mm.</i>
Length of skeleton spicules.....	0. 1740-0. 2160
Greatest diameter of skeleton spicules.....	0. 0103-0. 0125
Length of gemmule spicules.....	0. 0750-0. 0910
Greatest diameter of gemmule spicules.....	0. 0052-0. 0083

This sponge appears to be allied to *S. aspinosa* Potts, from which it differs in its compact structure and lack of flesh spicules.

Type-specimen.—Cat. No. 8266, U.S.N.M.