

BRIEF SYSTEMATIC SURVEY OF THE HEXACTINELLIDA
DESCRIBED IN THIS REPORT.

ORDER **HEXACTINELLIDA** OR **TRIAXONIA**.

Sponges with very loose soft parts, and with siliceous spicules, which are either isolated or united into a connected framework, and belong or are reducible to the triaxial system.

SUBORDER I. **LYSSACINA**, Zittel.

Hexactinellida in which the spicules either remain altogether isolated, or are in part subsequently and irregularly united by siliceous masses or transverse synapticula.

Tribe I. **HEXASTEROPHORA**, F. E. S.

Hexasters are always present in the parenchyma. The ciliated chambers are sharply separated from one another, and are thimble-shaped.

Family I. **EUPLECTELLIDÆ**, Gray.

The dermal skeleton contains sword-shaped oxyhexacts with long proximal ray.

Subfamily 1. **EUPLECTELLINÆ**, F. E. S.

Tubular forms with transverse terminal sieve-plate. The lateral wall exhibits circular parietal apertures. The projecting distal ray of the dagger-shaped hexact dermalia bears a floricome.

Genus 1. *Euplectella*, Owen.

With basal root-tuft. Parenchymal oxyhexasters.