

Avondale Road. Croydon
Sept 26. 1888

Dear Sir J. W. Dawson,

I duly received about the beginning of August your letter from Méris, informing me of your success in discovering fresh specimens of sponges in the shales of that locality, and the accompanying fragments showing the converging terminations of the root-spicules in Protospongia. Owing to the holidays and constant occupation in connection with the meeting of the International Geological Congress, I beg to apologise for the delay in my reply.

I own that it is very remarkable that only four spicular fibres should be present in the attaching processes of Pro.^a tetranema and their subsequent union or apparent union at the distal end might give rise to the

opinion that they were the recurved pro-
longed rays of a single spicule. This
character would, however, differ so much
from the spicules of the anchoring tuft in
allied sponges, in which there is only a
single long thread with, in some cases
four minute recurved hooks or rays, that
without the clearest evidence, I should
hesitate to regard the P. tetraura as ha-
ving root-fibres built up on the plan you
suggest. I still think the four fibres be-
long to as many distinct spicules whose
distal ends meet and overlap each
other and I think the appearances in the
fragments which you have sent may be
thus explained

I have now substantially finished
my study of Archaeocyathus and I in-
tend to lay my paper before the Geological
Society, if I find there is a chance for its
coming on early in the session. I should
hope however that Mr. Whiteaves will
be able to send me the slides which

Mr. Billings studied of Arch. Minganensis, since it is almost impracticable to make thin sections from the specimens after they have been treated with acid, but I am fairly certain that the entire sponge consisted originally of minute lithistid spicules similar to those which have been weathered out on the surface.

The Trichospongia sericea appears to be entirely made up of rod-like spicules and may provisionally be regarded as a monothallicid sponge. The Calathium? parclovicum is a lithistid sponge, but I have not been able to ascertain the spicular structure in Calathium formosum from the Lutes Group of Newfoundland.

I should wish to keep your specimens of Arachnophora until my paper on them has been read if you can kindly spare them so long. I have taken the liberty to exhibit them with the Canadian Survey and Sardinian specimens at the Geol. Congress

and they proved of considerable
interest to Prof: Gittel and Nicholson
and others who had not previously
seen any specimens of the genus.

With kind regards

Believe me

Yours very sincerely
George J. Kinde