ESCHARA SPONGITES PALLAS, 1766 (BRYOZOA): PROPOSED
DESIGNATION OF A NEOTYPE UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS.
Z.N.(S.) 1826

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1. The name Stylopoma was introduced by Levinsen in 1909 in the
explanation of Plate XVIII and in the legend to that plate. In the former
the two species assigned to Stylopoma are referred to as Schizoporella (Stylopoma)
longirostris Hincks and Schizoporella (St.) spongites (Pallas), whereas in the
latter they are given as Stylopoma longirostris Hincks and St. spongites Pall.,
respectively. Whether Levinsen intended the name as a subgenus of Schizo-
porella Hincks by his use of parentheses in the explanation of Plate XVIII is
not clear, as he used parentheses apparently with an entirely different meaning
in other parts of the work, e.g., Electra (Heteroecium) ampectens Hincks on
p. 147 and in the explanation of Plate IX, and Catenaria (Vittaticella) elegans
(Busk), Catenaria (Vittat.) fusca (MacGilliv.) and Catenaria (Vittat.) cornuta
(Busk) in the explanation of Plate XIII—in these instances it is probably that
the name in parentheses indicates that it is a synonym. This, however, could
not have been Levinsen's intention with regard to Stylopoma and Schizoporella.
In the legend to Plate XVIII the name is given full generic rank.

2. The type-species of Stylopoma, chosen from the two originally included
species by Canu and Bassler (1920, p. 359), is Eschara spongites Pallas, 1766,
p. 45.

3. Pallas (p. 46) gave the localities from which the species came as "Mare
Mediterraneum & Americanum".

4. Although Harmer (1930, p. 79) has pointed out that Pallas included
several species in Eschara spongites, Pallas gave a good description of a Medi-
erranean specimen in the "Museo Serenissimi Principis Aurici" and com-
mented that the specimen figured by Gualtieri (1742, figure after Title of Pt. iv)
was very similar to it in its character. Pallas's remarks (p. 47) on the American
specimens indicate that they belonged to other species (cf Harmer, 1930,
p. 79—"The American specimens included probably belonged to other
species").

5. In the hundred years following Pallas, several authors used his specific
name spongites, either combined with Eschara, Cellepora or Millepora, for
Mediterranean material (see Jelly, 1889, p. 234).

6. Smitt (1873, p. 42, pl. 8, figs. 161–163) used the name spongites, as
Hippothoa spongites, for a species from Florida.

7. Waters (1909, p. 144), treating his own species Lepralia errata (1878,
p. 11), L. errata, stadium Hemeschara (1879, p. 39, pl. 10, fig. 5), from the
Bay of Naples, as a variety of Schizoporella unicornis (Johnston), noted that it
"is what Pallas described as Eschara spongites" and that it "is not the S.
spongites of Smitt, Hincks and Thornely". [Harmer, (1957, pp. 1035, 1034)
referred the Hincks and Thornely material to Stylopoma parviporosum (Canu and
Bassler) and S. duboisii (Audouin), respectively.]
8. Later in the same year (1909, p. 324) Levinsen re-described Smitt's species and introduced the name *Stylopoma* (see paragraph 1, above). Although he referred to the species as *Schizoporella spongites* (Pallas) Smitt, he did not restrict the name *spongites* to the American material, but included a specimen from Aor, Malacca, Burma, (p. 325) and one from Java (pl. XVIII, fig. 4d).

9. By 1918, Waters (p. 17) recognized that *Eschara spongites* Pallas involved three species, namely, (a) *Schizoporella unicornis* forma *errata* (Waters) [= *Lepralia errata* Waters, an erect form], (b) *S. sanguinea* Norman, another Mediterranean but encrusting species, and (c) the American *S. spongites* of Smitt and Levinsen. He suggested that, as "the first two species are well known under other names" [i.e., later names], *spongites* should be applied to the American species. However, he made no designation of a type-specimen.

10. Osburn (1914, p. 207), Canu and Bassler (1920, p. 359; 1930, p. 40), and Hastings (1930, p. 721) used *spongites* for the American species.

11. Pallas not only included Gualtieri's figure of *Porus Anguinus* ... in his synonymy of *Eschara spongites*, but he also commented on the specimen in his remarks (see paragraph 4, above). Thus, in accordance with Article 74b of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, Harmer's choice (1930, p. 80) of Gualtieri's figure as type of the species appears to be valid—Harmer wrote, "Pallas' citation of Gualtieri makes it possible, however, to retain his name in the sense usually accepted; and Gualtieri's figure is thus to be regarded as the type of *Eschara spongites*". The later statement of Hastings (1932, p. 420) that "The genotype of *Stylopoma* is the W. Indian species figured by Levinsen" is incorrect.

12. The name *Stylopoma spongites* (Pallas) is thus restricted to the Mediterranean form, and is not available for the American species.

13. Hastings (1932, p. 420), Marcus (1937, p. 91; 1955, p. 296) and Osburn (1940, p. 424; 1947, p. 29; 1952, p. 336), accepted Harmer's restriction of the name to the Mediterranean species. Following the suggestion of Canu and Bassler (1923, p. 102), they placed the Recent American species in the synonymy of *Cellepora informata* Lonsdale (1845, p. 505, 2 figs.), using the combination *Stylopoma informata* (Lonsdale).

14. Cheetham and Sandberg (1964, p. 1030) stated the nomenclatorial problems of both *Stylopoma* and *Eschara spongites*, and gave reasons (p. 1031) for rejecting the synonymy of the Recent American species with *Cellepora informata*.

15. It appears from the foregoing that the choice by Harmer (1930) of a Mediterranean lectotype for *Eschara spongites* Pallas was strictly lawful, but invalidates current usages as follows:

i. of the genus *Stylopoma* Levinsen for a distinctive group of species.

ii. of the name *Stylopoma spongites* (Pallas) for a well-known American (warm Atlantic) species.

iii. of the name *Schizoporella errata* (Waters) for a common Mediterranean and ship-fouling species.

16. By rejecting Harmer's selection and choosing a specimen of the American species as neotype of *Eschara spongites* Pallas, these usages would all remain undisturbed.
17. Moreover, as the Mediterranean species is also known from the American coast (certain records of *Schizoporella unicornis* being based on *S. errata*), this course would avoid the transference of the name *spongites* from one American species to another.

18. We, therefore, ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature:

1. to use its plenary powers to set aside all designations of a type-specimen for *Eschara spongites* Pallas 1766, made prior to the Ruling now requested, and having done so, to designate:
   (a) Levinsen’s dry specimen from St. Jean (St. John) Bay, W. Indies, 10 fath., in Universitetets Museum, Copenhagen, redescribed by Hastings (in press), as neotype of *Eschara spongites* Pallas;
   (b) Levinsen’s spirit specimen from St. Jean (St. John), W. Indies, in the same museum and redescribed by Hastings, as neoparatype of *Eschara spongites* Pallas;

2. to place the following specific names on to the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
   (a) *spongites* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Eschara spongites* (type-species of *Stylopoma* Levinsen, 1909);
   (b) *errata* Waters, 1878, as published in the binomen *Lepralia errata*;


**References**

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Pallas, P. S. 1766. *Elenchus Zoophytorum... Hagae Comitum*
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