

IX.—On a new British *Eschara*, and the occurrence, in Cornwall, of *Sphenotrochus Wrightii*, of Gosse. — By CHARLES WILLIAM PEACH, A.L.S.

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ON the 16th of June, 1848, I found, in a boat in Fowey Harbour which had just returned from trawling in Lantivet Bay, a small coral, which I looked at with a pocket lens, and marked as *Cellepora lævis* of Fleming. Comparatively little was then known about such objects. I intended to give it a more careful examination, but press of duty prevented me, and soon afterwards I left for Scotland. This coral was packed with many other things in a box, and there it remained until a few weeks since, when, on opening the box, it turned up and was soon put under the microscope, for I felt curious about it, knowing that our best naturalists considered that *Cellepora lævis* was a northern species only. When with Mr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys, in 1864, dredging in Shetland, specimens of *Cellepora lævis*, with several other branched corals, were brought up. As I had seen and studied the figures and descriptions of these beautiful forms published by the late lamented Mr. Alder, I at once saw that my specimen from Fowey Harbour differed, not only from *Cellepora lævis*, but also from all other British branched corals that I had seen or read of. I have therefore thought that a short notice of it may be interesting to your Society:—

*Polyzoary*, buff colour, dichotomously branched, the stem and branches cylindrical and rough.

*Cells*, arranged in six or seven rows, in a quincunx manner, around the stem, deeply immersed, and very much roughened all round by raised rounded eminences, which occasionally, in the oldest parts, almost cover the cells, and form a rough net-work around them; these wart-like eminences, as well as the cells, are covered with pit-like depressions. The young cells on the tips of

the branches are raised, and although not so surrounded, are pitted.

*Apertures*, moderately large, rounded above and straight below in the old, in the young occasionally bent downwards in the centre in a v-like manner. The distal lips of the apertures—especially of the young cells—have five openings on them; the two lowest are the largest, and stand upon little eminences, all very much resembling the broken-off spines on many species of *Lepralia*.

On one side of each cell—sometimes on one side, sometimes on the other—is an avicularium on a conical elevation in the young; this is perforated on the top by a triangular opening, out of which rises a golden bayonet-shaped vibraculum, which is occasionally preserved on the old cells; less so on the *very young ones*. This vibraculum occurs on some *Lepralias*. I never saw it before on a British branched coral. This, with the roughened border round the cells, and the spine-like openings on the distal lip, justifies me in making it a new species.

Although I have called it an *Eschara* (*Eschara verrucosa*) it may be a *Cellepora*, or even a new genus. This must be left to some authority to decide. Unfortunately the specimen, though perfectly fresh when I got it, was broken from its attachment, therefore I can only give the height of the fragment, which is a little more than three-quarters of an inch, the stem and branches about one-tenth of an inch in thickness. I have given it the trivial name, from its rough warty appearance.

*Sphenotrochus Wrightii*, of Gosse. In the same box I turned out a nice specimen of this pretty coral. It was got about the same time as the *Eschara*. I am indebted to Mr. Waller for the name; he was with Mr. Hyndman when the specimens figured by Gosse were dredged. Mr. Waller was on his way to his home in Ireland, from dredging with Mr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys, in Shetland, and instantly recognised it when I showed it to him.

As Mr. Mc. Andrew dredged *Sphenotrochus Macandrewanus*, on the Cornish coast, both the species described in the "British Sea Anemones" have now been found on your coast.