

## A Monograph of the British Fossil Sponges, Vol. 1: Sponges of Palaeozoic and Jurassic Strata (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)



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*(Jaeden Stiedemann Sr.)*

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Forgotten Books, United States, 2015. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Excerpt from A Monograph of the British Fossil Sponges, Vol. 1: Sponges of Palaeozoic and Jurassic Strata Though Fossil Sponges are mentioned in some of the earliest works in which fossils are treated of, and descriptions of them appear in nearly all subsequent works on palaeontology, their true characters, until a comparatively recent date, were completely misunderstood, and their history was a mass of hopeless confusion. In the absence of any clear ideas as to the real nature of these organisms, the most heterogeneous materials were relegated to the group, and indeed it might be said to have been the practice - not altogether obsolete even now - to regard as a Sponge any fossil whose structure was too obscure to be satisfactorily placed elsewhere. One of the principal reasons for the chaos which existed was the erroneous idea, enunciated more particularly by D Orbigny and Fromentel, that fossil Sponges belonged to an entirely extinct group, of a different nature to those now living, and consequently that no clue could be obtained to their original structures by a comparison with those of living forms. Acting on this mistaken idea, those who studied the fossil forms did not attempt to carry out a systematic investigation of their skeletal structures, like that which had been so successfully applied to existing Sponges, but they were content to limit their investigations to the external form and the superficial canal structures, features possessed in common by many Sponges whose skeletal characters are essentially diverse. The classification thus based, was for the most part valueless and misleading. Here and there observers were not wanting who noticed the importance of the skeletal structures of these fossils, and amongst these...



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