T.D.C. Part-I, Zoology (SUBB)

Topic:- PORIFERA

Date ___/___/___

Introduction:-

The word "Porifera" means pore bearing animals. Their body wall has numerous minute pores called ostia, through which a continuous current of outside water is drawn into the body. About 5,000 species are known in this group.

Characters:-

(i) All are aquatic, mostly marine.
(ii) Body form vase-like, cylindrical, tubular.
(iii) Asymmetrical.
(iv) Sponge body is diploblastic.
(v) Body wall is perforated.
(vi) Skeleton consists of calcareous.
(vii) Digestion is intracellular.
(viii) Cleavage holoblastic.

Classification:-

On the basis of the nature of skeleton, sponges are divided into 3 classes.

⇒ **Class 1 : Calcarea :-**

(i) Marine or shallow seawater
(ii) Small, body vase-like and cylindrical in shape.
ex- Leucosolenia, Sycpha e.t.c.

⇒ **Class 2: Hexactinellida :-**

(i) Deep sea forms.
(ii) Variously coloured, cup-shaped.
(iii) Canal system is complex.
Ex- Euplectella, Hyalonema.

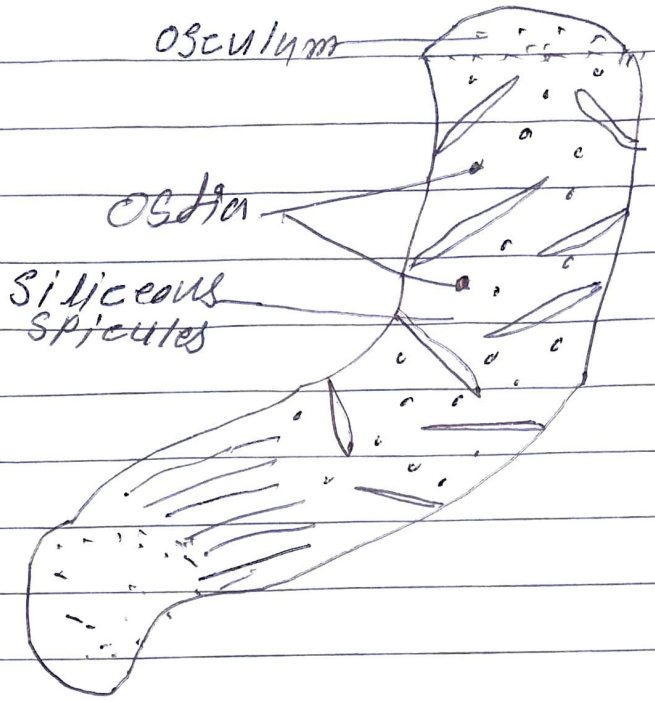

Fig- Euplectella

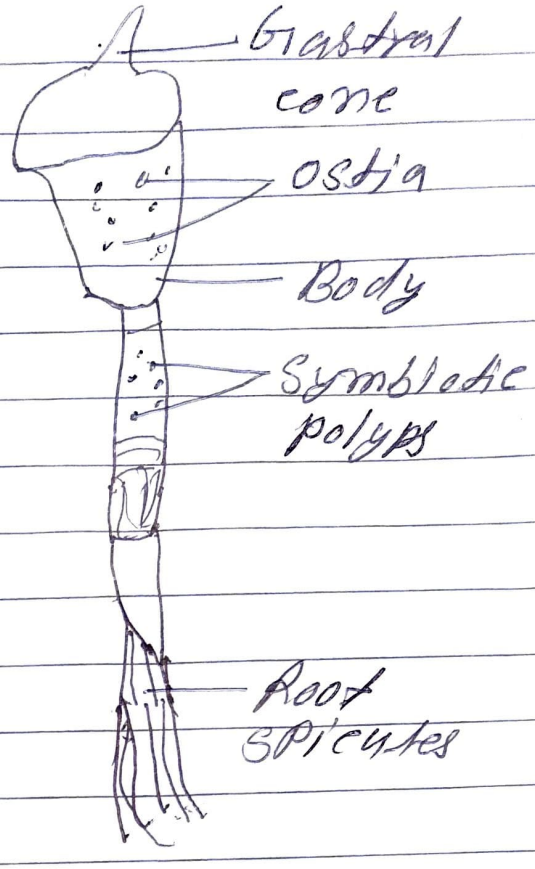

Fig:- Hyalonema

→ Class 3: Demospongia :-

(i) mostly marine, few freshwater.
(ii) Small to large sized.
(iii) usually asymmetrical.
(iv) skeleton of silicious spicules.
(v) spicules monaxon.

Ex- Euspongia, spongilla e.t.c.

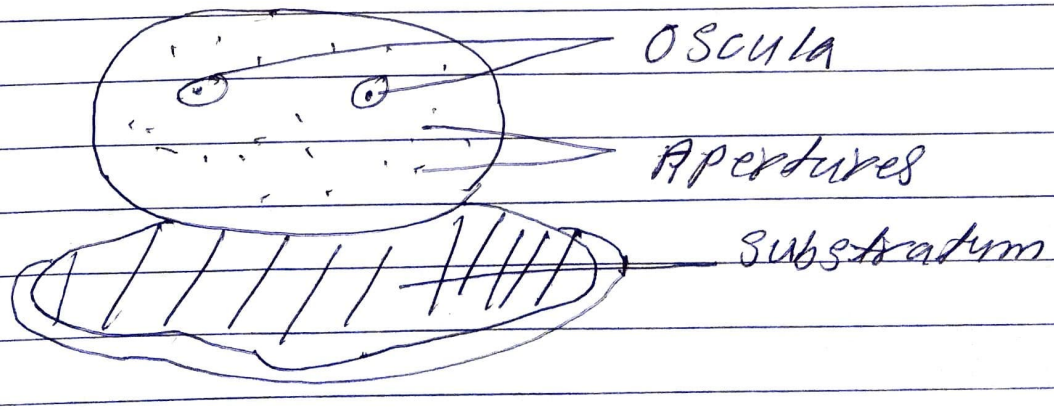

Fig- Euspongia