

房室海绵特征与分类*

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内 容 提 要

对房室海绵化石的出水管系统类型进行了总结, 增添了 11 种新类型, 提出以出水管系统的类型作为房室海绵科级及亚目级的分类标准, 并据此对房室海绵的分类进行了重大改革。

关键词 多孔动物 海绵 房室海绵 串管海绵 分类

串管海绵 (Sphinctozoa) 一名最早由 Steinmann (1882) 提出, 并被作为箭囊目 (Pharetrones) 的一个亚目。箭囊目包括的另一个亚目是纤维海绵目 (Inozoa)。Laubenfels (1955) 提出 Sphinctozoa 不同于典型的 pharetrones, 因而不宜归入 Pharetrones 之中, 而且该名称词尾不妥, 又与一个属名拼法相同, 故主张废除此名, 另建 Thalamida 一名取代之, Inozoa 则被作为 Pharetrones 的晚出同义名, 予以废除。我国学者以前一直使用的是 Steinmann 的分类和术语, 并将 Sphinctozoa 译为“串管海绵”。但近年来, 国外学者逐渐放弃了 Sphinctozoa 一名, 而使用 Thalamida。尤其是近年来他们越来越重视这类生物的多源性, 因而, 改用 Thalamida 一名似乎更有道理。尽管这两个名称都指具房室的钙质海绵, 但为了区别起见把 Thalamida 译为“房室海绵”较为合适。当时, Laubenfels 把 Pharetronida 和 Thalamida 都作为钙质海绵纲内独立的目。但近年来, 国外一些学者在少数房室海绵中发现原始成分可能为硅质的单轴骨针 (Senowbari-Daryan, 1990), 因而主张把房室海绵放在普通海绵纲中, 这种做法不无道理。所以, 笔者在本文中采纳这种观点。正如有些学者指出的: 房室海绵的分类目前仍然只能是形态分类 (Senowbari-Daryan, 1990)。而分类的差别主要决定于选择什么样的分类标准。笔者在考察了房室海绵各个性状的功能后, 选择了与前人有所不同的分类标准, 从而提出一个新的分类方案。

房室海绵是一类具房室组成的钙骨 (calcareous rigid skeleton) 的海绵, 是二叠纪的重要造礁生物之一, 房室海绵化石的描述可以追溯到上世纪。Zittle (1878)、Steinmann (1882) 和 Dunikowski (1883) 的工作为该类化石的研究奠定了基础。Rauff (1913)、Vinassa (1901, 1908, 1915)、Girty (1908)、Mansuy (1913, 1914)、Hayasaka (1918)、Parona (1933)、Yabe 和 Sugiyama (1934)、Wilchens (1937) 及 Herak (1944) 等人都描述了不少的房室海绵化石。从 50 年代开始, Seilacher (1962)、Ott (1965)、Dieci 等 (1968)、Fan 和 Zhang (1985)、Senowbari-

* 国家自然科学基金资助项目。

Daryan(1990)、Senowbari-Daryan 等(1983,1988)以及 Rigby(1989)都对该类化石作了重要工作。迄今为止,已描述房室海绵 117 属。

房室海绵既可以是礁相生物(Wu,1991),也可以是非礁相生物。它们的地质时代从寒武纪一直延续到现代。二叠纪的礁相房室海绵主要分布在中国、突尼斯、西西里及美国的二叠纪礁中。迄今为止,以突尼斯的房室海绵化石研究得最为深入(Senowbari-Daryan and Rigby,1988)。

一、房室海绵的特征及术语

房室海绵以具有由房室组成的钙骨、水流循环构造及埋于钙骨中的硅质骨针为特征。房室海绵的骨针通常是单轴针,目前主要发现在少数中生代及古生代的属中(Senowbari-Daryan,1990),而不是在所有的房室海绵化石中;因而不是一个有效的分类特征。最简单的房室海绵是单房室的,如 *Blastulospongia* (Pickett and Jell,1983)。但绝大多数的房室海绵是多房室的。房室海绵的房室可以是球状、穹状、鼓状、盘状、管状及不规则囊状。房室的排列变化很大。可以是单列,也可以是多列。多列的可以是单层或多层的,也可以是不规则状。房室海绵的钙骨可以是球状、链状、柱状、锥状、板状或不规则状。

房室海绵的水流循环构造有 3 种:(1)出水管系统(exhalent system),(2)眼孔(ostia)和/或微孔(pores),(3)连房管(chamber-connecting tube)。

房室海绵中用以将水流从房室中排出到体外的所有管道或通道构成出水管系统。房室海绵的出水管系统可以划分为如下类型:(1)中央管(central tube;插图 1a—e,j);(2)中央管束(central tube bundle,插图 1f,g);(3)中央导管(central conduit,插图 1k,l);(4)中央导管束(central conduit bundle,插图 1h,m);(5)多垂向管(multiple vertical tubes,插图 1n);(6)多垂向导管(multiple vertical conduits,插图 1o);(7)多垂向导管束(multiple vertical conduit bundles,插图 1i,p)。中央管与中央导管的区别在于中央导管具有自己的连续的壁,并常借延入管延入到房室中去。而中央管却没有自己的壁,也没有延入管,到目前为止,房室海绵的出水管系统可以总结为 16 种(插图 1a—p):(1)隐管型,(2)假管型,(3)原管型,(4)反管型,(5)钝管型,(6)约克型,(7)叠瓦型,(8)假钝管型,(9)镰房型,(10)瓜达卢佩型,(11)泰巴佳型,(12)巴泰格型,(13)导管束型,(14)球囊型,(15)多泡腔型,(16)雷姆型。类型 1—5 的定义与前人(Seilacher,1962)的相同,这些类型的海绵体都是单列。约克型出水管系统由一束中央管组成,这些中央管的壁不连续,房室排列为单列式;这种类型可以 *Yukonella* 为例。叠瓦型出水管系统由一束具连续壁的中央管组成,并且房室围绕中央管束排列成数层;这种类型可以 *Imbricatocoelia* 为例。假钝管型出水管系统由一束中央导管组成,中央导管借延入管延伸到房室中去,房室排列成单列;这种类型可以 *Pseudoamblysiphonella* 为例。镰房型出水管系统由多个垂向导管束组成,房室排列是单列的;这种类型可以 *Zanklithalamia* 为例。瓜达卢佩型出水管系统由一个中央管组成,中央管壁就是各个房室的壁;这种类型可以 *Guadalupia* 为例。泰巴佳型出水管系统由一中央导管组成,中央导管借延入管延伸到房室中,管状房室围绕中央导管排列成一层;这种类型可以 *Tebagathalamia* 为例。巴泰格型出水管系统由一个中央导管束组成,中央导管束借延入管延伸到各个房室中,房室围绕中

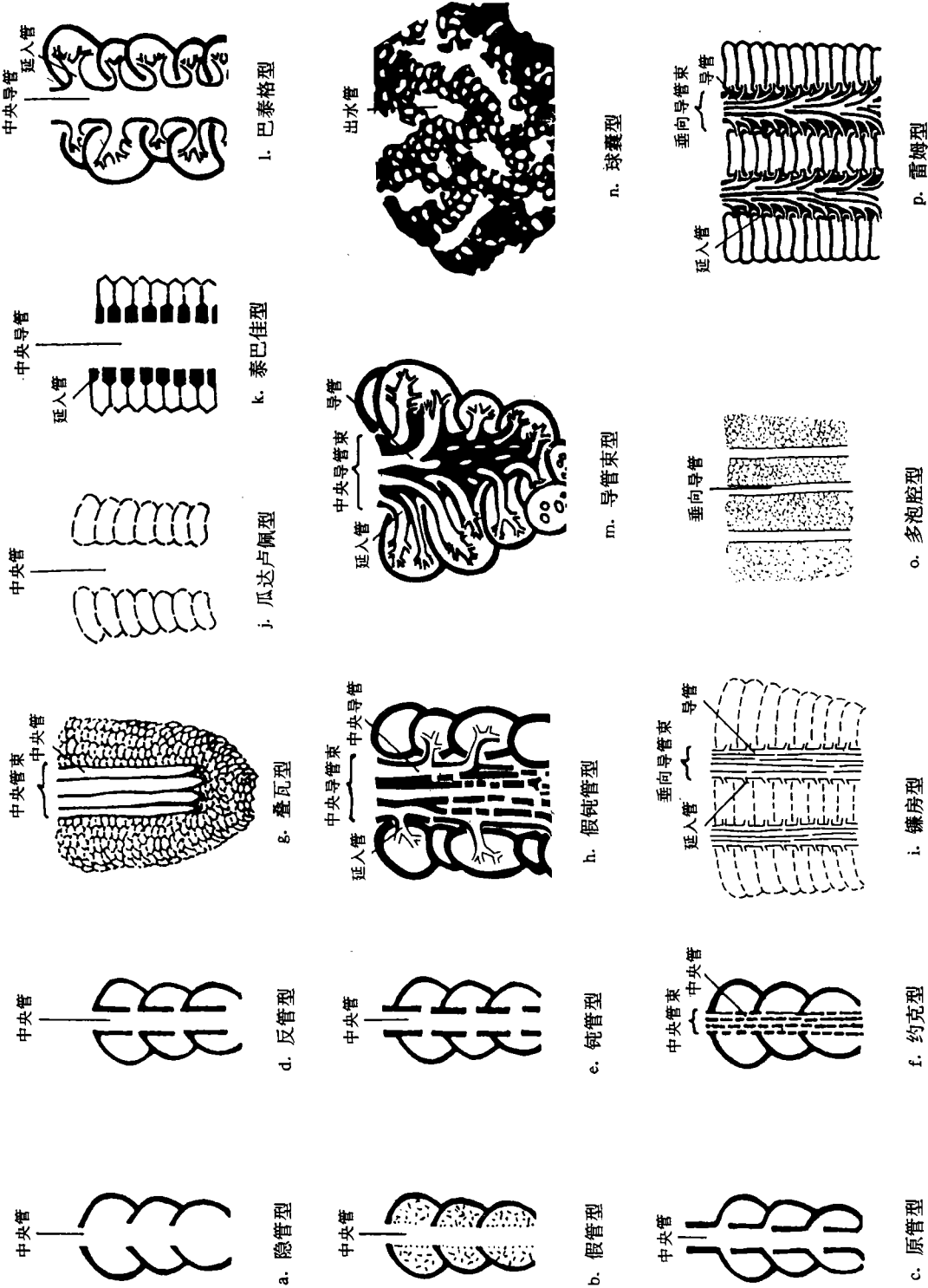


插图 1 房室海绵的出水管类型
Exhalant canal systems of thalamids

央导管成螺旋式排列;这种类型可以 *Battaglia* 为例。导管束型出水管系统由一个中央导管束组成,中央导管束借延入管延入到各个房室中,房室围绕中央导管束排列成数层;这种类型可以 *Polysiphospongia* 为例。球囊型出水管系统由多个瓜达卢佩型垂向出水管组成(vertical tubes),房室围绕每个垂向出水管排列成数层;这种类型可以 *Glomocystospongia* 为例。多泡腔型出水管系统由多个垂向导管组成,房室围绕每个垂向导管排列成数层;这种类型可以 *Polycystothalamia* (Wu, 1991) 为例。雷姆型出水管系统由多个垂向导管束组成,房室围绕每个垂向导管束排列成一层;这种类型可以 *Lemonea* 为例。

房室海绵的房室内可有各种充填物,其类型有:(1)泡沫状充填物(如 *Colospongia*);(2)辐板(如 *Radiothalamia*);(3)孔状充填物(如 *Intrasporecoelia*);(4)支柱(如 *Cryptocoelia*);(5)网状充填物(如 *Prosiphonella*)。有些属的中央管内也有充填物(如 *Battaglia*)。

房室海绵的演化趋向表现在:(1)房室由单个到多个;房室排列由单列式(如 *Colospongia*)到单层式(如 *Guadalupia*)再到多层式(如 *Glomocystospongia*);(2)水流循环系统由无管和具微孔和连房管到具中央管再到具导管,(3)房室充填物由简单到复杂。

二、房室海绵的分类

最有影响的房室海绵分类方案由 Seilacher (1962) 提出的,他根据微孔的有无把房室海绵划分为有孔超科和无孔超科。有孔超科中根据房室充填物类型分为 5 科,无孔超科中根据房室充填物类型分为 3 科。这个分类使用较广。但现在看来,这个分类是有问题的,例如, *Guadalupia* 一属中有些种的房室壁具微孔,另外一些种则不具微孔 (Senowbari-Daryan and Rigby, 1988)。在这种情形下,这个属该归入哪个超科?

最近, Senowbari-Daryan (1990) 对 Seilacher 的分类方案进行了重大改进,他把房室海绵分为 5 目,其中的 1 目归入钙质海绵纲,其余归入普通海绵纲,亚目的划分依据微孔,科的划分沿用了以前的标准和大部分名称。

笔者认为,微孔是属或科级的分类标准。骨针对绝大多数化石房室海绵来说,不是一个有效的分类标志,房室海绵的最高级分类依据应该是出水管系统,因为出水管系统是最重要的控制水流循环的构造,并且总能在化石中保存下来。房室的排列方式对水流循环亦有重要控制作用,因而是一个次一级的分类标志。微孔的有无、眼孔的存在与否、充填物的存在与否是属和种一级的分类标志。根据这样的原则笔者提出一个房室海绵分类的新方案。

普通海绵纲 Class Demospongia Sollas, 1875

房室海绵目 Order Thalamida Laubenfels, 1955

定义:房室海绵类包括所有由房室组成的钙骨、单轴的硅质及钙质骨针以及各种水流循环构造的海绵。房室壁的微细结构可以是球纤状(spherulitic)、不规则状(irregular)、直纤状(orthogonal)、羽纤状(clinogonal)、纹层状(lamellar)或微粒状(microgranular)。

无管亚目 Suborder Asiphonata Wu, 1991

定义:本亚目的海绵没有出水管系统;由一个到多个房室组成;房室通常排列成柱状、板状或不规则的集合体。

似乌蛙海绵科 Family Parauvanellidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科海绵的房室排列和形态不规则,房室壁具微孔或不具微孔而具眼孔。

代表属:*Parauvanella* Senowbari-Daryan and Di Stefano, 1988

讨论:*Uvanella* 属与 *Parauvanella* 形态相似,但房室壁的微细结构完全不同,因而归入本科有疑问。其微晶结构的房室壁在房室海绵中罕见。

多瘤海绵科 Family Polyphymaspongiidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科海绵形态规则,通常为板状、柱状;房室壁具有微孔或不具微孔而具眼孔。

代表属:*Polyphymaspongia* King, 1943

卡勒海绵科 Family Colospongiidae Senowbari-Daryan, 1990

定义:本科的海绵链状或柱状;房室壁通常具微孔,可有连房管,也可不具微孔而具眼孔。

代表属:*Colospongia* Laube, 1865

讨论:根据本科的定义, *Rhabdactinia*, *Intrasporecoelia* 和 *Guangxispongia* Wu, 1991 都应归入本科。

有管亚目 Suborder Siphonata Wu, 1991

定义:本亚目的海绵具有中央管或中央管束,通常呈链状或柱状。链状者由一系列房室叠置而成;柱状者由房室围绕中央管或中央管束排列成一到数层而成。中央管可以是隐管型、假管型、原管型、反管型、钝管型。中央管束为约克型。

创胸腔海绵科 Family Thaumastocoeliidae Ott, 1967

定义:本科的海绵呈链状;中央管为隐管型或假管型。

代表属:*Sollasia* Steinmann, 1882

塞巴加斯海绵科 Family Sebargasiidae Laubenfels, 1955

定义:本科的海绵呈链状;中央管为原管型、反管型或钝管型;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Amblysiphonella* Steinmann, 1882

约克海绵科 Family Yukonellidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵呈柱状,由一系列房室叠置而成;中央管束为约克型;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Yukonella* Senowbari-Daryan et Reid, 1987

瓜达卢佩海绵科 Family Guadalupiidae Girty, 1908

定义:本科的海绵呈柱状,由管状房室围绕并垂直于中央管排列成一层而成;中央管为瓜达卢佩型;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Guadalupia* Girty, 1908

泡管海绵科 Family Cystauletidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵呈柱状,由球状或囊状房室围绕中央管排列成一层而成;中央管为瓜达卢佩型;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Cystauletes* King, 1943

泡腔海绵科 Family Cystothalamiidae Girty, 1908

定义:本科的海绵呈柱状,由囊状房室围绕中央排列成数层而成;中央管为瓜达卢佩型;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Cystothalamia* Girty, 1908

叠瓦海绵科 Family Imbricatocoeliidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵呈柱状,由囊状房室围绕一中央管束呈叠瓦状排列成数层而成;中央管束为叠瓦型;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Imbricatocoelia* Rigby *et al.*, 1989

导管亚目 Suborder Vasculata Wu, 1991

定义:本亚目的海绵具中央导管或中央导管束;房室通常排列成链状或柱状。

假钝管海绵科 Family Pseudoamblysiphonellidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵呈链状,由一系列房室叠置而成;中央导管束为假钝管型。房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Pseudoamblysiphonella* Senowbari-Daryan *et Rigby*, 1988

泰巴佳海绵科 Family Tebagathalamiidae Senowbari-Daryan *et Rigby*, 1988

定义:本科的海绵呈柱状,由管状房室围绕并垂直于一中央导管排列成一层而成;中央导管为泰巴佳型。中央导管借管入延入房室内。房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Tebagathalamia* Senowbari-Daryan *et Rigby*, 1988

乌娃腔海绵科 Family Uvacoeliidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵呈柱状,由球状房室围绕一中央导管排列成一层而成;中央导管为泰巴佳型,中央导管借延入管延入到房室内。房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Uvacoelia* Kugel, 1987

巴泰格海绵科 Family Battagliidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵具有巴泰格型中央导管束;房室通常围绕中央导管束成螺旋式排列;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Battaglia* Senowbari-Daryan *et Schafer*, 1986

导管束海绵科 Family Vesicocaulidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵具有一导管束型中央导管束;房室围绕中央导管束排列成一层,房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Polysiphospongia* Senowbari-Daryan *et Schafer*, 1986

多管亚目 Suborder Polysiphonata Wu, 1991

定义:本亚目的海绵具有多个垂向出水管或垂向出水管束。

球囊海绵科 Family Glomocystospongiidae Rigby *et al.*, 1989

定义:本科的海绵具有球囊型出水管系统;房室围绕每个出水管排列成数层。房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Glomocystospongia* Rigby *et al.*, 1989

多导管亚目 Suborder Polyvasculata Wu, 1991

定义:本亚目的海绵具有多个垂向导管或垂向导管束。

镰房海绵科 Family Zanklithalamiidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵由一系列房室叠置而成,具有镰房型出水管系统;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Zanklithalamia* Senowbari-Daryan, 1990

多泡腔海绵科 Family Polycystothalamiidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵具有一多泡腔型出水管系统;房室围绕每个垂向导管排列成数层;房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Polycystothalamia* Wu, 1991

雷姆海绵科 Family Lemoneidae Wu, 1991

定义:本科的海绵具有一雷姆型出水管系统;管状的房室围绕每个垂向导管束排列成一层。房室壁具微孔或不具微孔。

代表属:*Lemonea* Senowbari-Daryan, 1990

三、房室海绵的古生态

房室海绵通常生活在浅水的碳酸盐台地或生物礁上,常与钙藻共生,故代表一种温暖浅水环境。在二叠纪和三叠纪,房室海绵是重要的造礁生物,往往作为主要的或次要的造架生物或障积生物。三叠纪以后,房室海绵仍然出现在与礁相关的环境中,但数量很少(Palmer and Fursich, 1981)。

在我国西南的二叠纪礁中,房室海绵是重要的造礁生物。它们可以作为:(1)障积生物,如在四川重庆晚二叠世礁中的情形;(2)造架生物,如在湖北利川晚二叠世礁及广西、贵州中晚二叠世礁中的情形。在四川重庆的晚二叠世礁中,房室海绵和纤维海绵是主要障积生物。在广西、贵州及湖北的晚二叠世礁中,房室海绵是主要造架生物之一,而在广西隆林祥播的中二叠世礁中,房室海绵是仅次于硬海绵和纤维海绵的主要造架生物。在祥播及贵州紫云的礁中,房室海绵可以呈粗的柱状、纤细的柱状、粗壮的分枝状、纤细的分枝状及锥状等形态。笔者的研究表明,纤细分枝状和纤细柱状的房室海绵最适宜生活于高能环境,代表了生物礁发育的顶峰。统计研究表明,在不太典型的礁或不太典型的礁相带中,房室海绵比纤维海绵有更大的丰度;反之在典型的礁或礁相带中房室海绵的丰度比纤维海绵要低。因而,房室海绵具有一种与纤维海绵类似而又稍稍不同的生活习性。

主要参考文献

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CHARACTERS, TERMINOLOGY AND CLASSIFICATION OF THALAMIDS

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Key words sponge, Porifera, calcisponge, Sphinctozoa, thalamids

Summary

Thalamids are characterized by chambered calcareous skeletons, water controlling structures and spicules embedded in the skeletons.

The water controlling structures in thalamids include (1) exhalent canal system, (2) pores or/and ostia, and (3) chamber connecting tubes.

The exhalent canal systems in thalamids can be (1) cryptosiphonate (text-fig. 1a), (2) pseudosiphonate (text-fig. 1b), (3) prosiphonate (text-fig. 1c), (4) retrosiphonate (text-fig. 1d), (5) amblysiphonate (text-fig. 1e), (6) yukosiphonate (text-fig. 1f), (7) imbrisiphonate (text-fig. 1g), (8) pseudoamblysiphonate (text-fig. 1h), (9) zanklisiphonate (text-fig. 1i), (10) guadalusiphonate (text-fig. 1j), (11) tebagasiphonate (text-fig. 1k), (12) battagsiphonate (text-fig. 1l), (13) vesicosiphonate (text-fig. 1m), (14) glomosiphonate (text-fig. 1n), (15) polycystosiphonate (text-fig. 1o) and (16) lemosiphonate (text-fig. 1p).

They can be divided into the following types: (1) central tube (text-figs. 1a—e, j), (2) central tube bundle (text-figs. 1f, g), (3) central conduit (text-figs. 1k, l), (4) central conduit bundle (text-figs. 1h, m), (5) multiple vertical tubes (text-figs. 1n), (6) multiple vertical conduits (text-figs. 1o), and (7) multiple vertical conduit bundles (text-figs. 1i, p).

The present author believes that the perforation nature of chamber walls is a criterion only for generic or specific level taxonomy, and that the spicules are not a practicable criterion for the classification of most fossil thalamids. The most important criterion should be the exhalent canal systems because they are the most important water controlling structures. The less important criterion is the arrangement pattern of chambers which is also important to water circulation. The perforation nature of chamber walls, the ostia, the chamber connecting tubes and the filling structures in chambers are the criteria for the identification of genera and species. Based on these standards, a new classification scheme is proposed as follows.

Class Demospongia Sollas, 1875

Order Thalamida Laubenfels, 1955

Definition: Chambered calcareous sponges with monaxons and various water controlling structures. The microstructure of chamber walls can be spherulitic, irregular, orthogonal, clinogonal, lamellar, and micritic.

Suborder Asiphonata Wu, 1991

Definition: Thalamids in the suborder have no exhalent canal system (i. e., asiphonate), composed of one or more than one chamber, commonly columnar, plate-like or irregularly massive in form.

Family Parauvanellidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder irregular in form, composed of chambers irregularly arranged, with chamber walls perforated or imperforated with ostia.

Family Polyphymaspongiidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder regular in form, commonly plate-like or columnar in form, with chamber walls perforated or imperforated with ostia.

Family Colospongiidae Senowbari Daryan, 1990

Definition (revised): This family include the members of the suborder catenulate or columnar in form, with chamber walls commonly perforated, probably with chamber connecting tubes, or imperforated with ostia.

Suborder Siphonata Wu, 1991

Definition: Thalamids in the suborder have a central tube or a central tube bundle, commonly including the catenulate forms composed of a series of stacked chambers, and the columnar forms generally composed of one or more than one layer of chambers arranged around the central tube which can be cryptosiphonate, pseudosiphonate, prosiphonate, retrosiphonate, amblysiphonate and guadalusiphonate, and the central tube bundle which can be yukosiphonate or imbrisiphonate.

Family Thaumastocoeliidae Ott, 1967

Definition (revised): This family include the members of the suborder catenulate in form, with a cryptosiphonate, or pseudosiphonate central tube.

Family Sebargasiidae Laubenfels, 1955

Definition (revised): This family include the members of the suborder catenulate in form, with a prosiphonate, or retrosiphonate or amblysiphonate central tube, with perforate or imperforate chamber walls.

Family Yukonellidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder with a yukosiphonate central tube bundle, composed of a series of stacked chambers, columnar in form.

Family Guadalupiidae Girty, 1908

Definition (revised): This family include the members of the suborder composed of lateral tube-like chambers radially arranged in one layer around a guadalusiphonate central tube, with perforate or imperforate chamber walls, commonly columnar in form.

Family Cystaletidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder composed of subspherical to saccate chambers arranged in one layer around a guadalusiphonate central tube with chamber walls perforated or imperforated, commonly columnar in form.

Family Cystothalamiidae Girty, 1908

Definition (revised): This family include the members of the suborder composed of saccate chambers arranged in more than one layer around a guadalusiphonate central tube with chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Family Imbricatocoeliidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder composed of saccate chambers arranged in more than one layer around an imbrisiphonate central tube bundle, with chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Suborder Vasculata Wu, 1991

Definition: Thalamids in the suborder have a central conduit or central conduit bundle, with chamber arrangement commonly catenulate or spiral.

Family Pseudoamblysiphonellidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder catenulate in form, composed of a series of stacked chambers, with a pseudoamblysiphonate central conduit bundle, with chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Family Tebagathalamiidae Senowbari Daryan et Rigby, 1988

Definition (revised): This family include the members of the suborder composed of lateral tube-like chambers radially arranged in one layer around a tebagasiphonate central conduit. Each chamber converges into the central conduit through a small converging tube. Chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Family Uvacoeliidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder composed of spherical chambers arranged in one layer around a tebagasiphonate central conduit, commonly columnar in form. Each chamber converges into the central conduit through a small converging tube. Chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Family Battagliidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder having a battagsiphonate central conduit, with chamber arrangement spiral, and chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Family Vesicocaulidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder having a vesi-

cosiphonate central conduit bundle, with chambers arranged in one layer around the central conduit bundle, and chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Suborder Polysiphonata Wu, 1991

Definition: Thalamids in the suborder have more than one vertical exhalent tube or vertical tube bundle scattered in a whole sponge.

Family Glomocystospongiidae Rigby, Fan et Zhang, 1989

Definition (revised): This family include the members of the suborder having a glomosphonate exhalent canal system, with chambers arranged in more than one layer around each vertical exhalent tube/canal, and chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Suborder Polyvasculata Wu, 1991

Definition: Thalamids in the suborder have more than one vertical conduit or vertical conduit bundle scattered in the whole sponge.

Family Zanklithalamiidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder composed of a series of stacked chambers, with a zanklisiphonate exhalent canal system, and chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Family Polycystothalamiidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder having a polycystosiphonate exhalent canal system, and chambers arranged in more than one layer around each vertical conduit, and chamber walls perforated or imperforated.

Family Lemoneidae Wu, 1991

Definition: This family include the members of the suborder having a lemosiphonate exhalent canal system, with lateral tube-like chambers radially arranged in one layer around each vertical conduit bundle.