

specimens collected near Philadelphia, had since been found abundantly along the Atlantic coast from Florida to Nova Scotia. It had been gathered at several points along the St. Lawrence and in the great lakes through the middle Continent, and in the far west had been described by Dr. Bowerbank, in 1863, under the name *S. Lerdii*, as found in the lakes and streams flowing from the Cascade Range in British Columbia, affluents of the Majestic Columbia river. The species may therefore be regarded as strictly continental in its range, and until very recently it has been distinctively American. It is a little singular that the only other place in which it has been noticed is in the neighbourhood of Charkow, in Russia, where it was discovered a few months since by Dr. L. Dybowski.

The specimens of this species from Nova Scotia had been collected by Mr. A. H. MacKay, B. A., B. Sc., of Pictou Academy, Pictou, N. S., from whom the speaker had recently received a collection of Sponges, phenomenal in its character, both as regards the number of genera and species represented and the excellent judgment that had attached to most of them their proper names from apparently very insufficient data. The collection was the result of a few day's search within a limited district, "from lakes in and near the watershed of Nova Scotia, near the borders of the three counties of Pictou, Guysboro and Antigonish," at elevations of from 100 to 700 feet above sea level. Of the genus *Spongilla*, it contains three species, *S. lacustris*, *S. fragilis*, and *S. iglooiformis*; of the genus *Meyenia*, two species, *M. fluvialis* and *M. Everetti*; of the genus *Heteromeyenia* two, *H. argyrosperma* and *H. Ryderi*; and of the genus *Tubella* one species, *T. Pennsylvanica*—eight species representing four genera. Besides these there were small specimens of another species, evidently new, but whose generic relations could not be determined on account of the absence of statoblasts.

In some respects the most important find in the collection is *Meyenia Everetti*, Mills, this being only the second instance in which the species has been discovered. The original locality was Gilder Pond, upon Mt. Everett in Berkshire Co., Mass., at an elevation of 1800 or 2000 feet above the sea. It was there collected by Dr. F. Wolle and Mr. H. S. Kitchel, of Bethlehem, Pa., well known for their invaluable work amid the desmids and diatoms, and examined simultaneously by Mr. H. Mills, of Buffalo, N. Y., and the speaker. Its most striking peculiarity is the presence all through the dermal tissues of very minute hirotolate spicules, the only instance in which these have been observed as characteristic features of the dermal surface in any freshwater sponges, unless the complicated forms