

"I found the species which I first called *Eophyllum* in a piece of *Eozoon*, in the first white band of limestone overlying a layer of serpentine; in other words between two layers of serpentine. Then first this question occurred to me: Are not the whole lumps of *Eozoon* plants? I was forced to yield to the inference after I had exposed, by applying Hydrochloric acid to the limestone, some larger lamellæ which were in connection with serpentinic layers; indeed, the forms are so permanent and so constantly reappearing that they cannot be explained otherwise. Of course with this there was gained the best argument against the animal theory; for, hitherto the discovered species of Algae have never been found in either stones or shells. This plant belongs to the family of the Algae. They either rest immediately upon dolomite and gneiss, or are found in the proper *Eophyllous* limestone, i.e. in the layers of serpentine limestone, between the large strata of dolomite and serpentine. They are, however, not only to be found in the limestone, but also in the serpentine of the strata. No plants or but few, are found in the thick layers of serpentins which enclose the *Eophyllous* limestone; certainly none in the lowest. Some of them may be seen with the naked eye, while with the microscope, we come to the smallest conceivable forms. Being replaced by silicates, they may be exposed by the application of acid to the limestone. This done, the plants make their appearance as shining white stems, calyxes, and leaves. In thinly ground plates, they appear a yellowish brown. This, probably, is the reason that Möbius describes their color as being a light brown. In reality, it is the refraction of the light in the opaque masses."*

"There was scarcely ever a more difficult task given to natural science, than the determination of the nature of "*Eozoon*." When I made my first announcement of *Eophyllum* in the "*Ausland*" I little thought that the large ribbons of serpentine were also plants. I had already half-finished this work after my original plan, when I came across a defective specimen of rock, in which, in consequence of its defectiveness, the serpentine parts were very clearly distinguishable.

"I looked at it over and over again, till it struck me that the sarcode-chambers were nothing but cells of plants. Thus the fate of the microscopist is decided. What others can see with the naked eye he does not see at all. Then came the more difficult part: the examination of the case. Now, I had no more doubt. And in this manner only facts become clear. The ribbons of serpentine which constitute that which is called *Eozoon*, belong to an alga with broad leaves—if the expression is permitted—which radiating from one point arranges itself in regular forms. The basal-cell rests upon serpentine or dolomite. Roots I found only in one case, of which, however, I am not sure. The limestone is the replacing-material. The germ-cells

* Thus far, the author refers principally to the serpentine casts of the canal system.