

Porifera (Lt. Porus = pore, ferre = to bear)

General characteristics

1. They are extremely aquatic; live a sessile & sessile life.
2. Body is full of pores. Mainly 2 types of pores are found — ostia, osculum.
3. First diploblastic animal, cellular organisation found in body.
4. Different types of unique cells are found in body. such as choanocytes, pinacocytes etc.
5. Water canal system is found in this phylum
6. Internal skeletal system made up of spic calcareous or siliceous spicules and spongin fibres.
7. Carries a central body choan spongocoel.
8. They are monococious, reproduce through sexual & asexual both methods.
eg: scypha, spongilla etc.

Classification → on the basis of skeletal structure
According to Storer & Usinger (1971)

