

Sponges

Domain: Eukaryote

Kingdom: Anamalia

Phylum: Porifera

Class: Demospongiae

ID = sponges

Important:

Phylum name means – “to filter”

Habitat – all aquatic

Coelom - acoelomate

Symmetry / Body Plan - asymmetrical bodies

3 body types:

- **asconid** =
- **syconid** =
- **leuconioids** =

Cellular Organization - Lack tissues & organs, but have specialized cell types.

- specialized cells include – choanocytes, porocyte, amoebocyte, epidermal cells

Reproduction

- asexual = budding or fragmentation, also special asexual body called “**gemmules**”
- sexual = monocious

Digestion - feed = filter feeding, with a remarkable ability to absorb liquids

- Have neither a mouth nor a gut.

Circulation - no circulatory system

Nervous system – no nervous system

Key characteristics / special adaptations / unique feature

- Most primitive of all multicellular animals
- Sessile
- Skeleton made of **spongin** or **spicules**

