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Notes on Myriosteon

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MISCELLANEOUS.

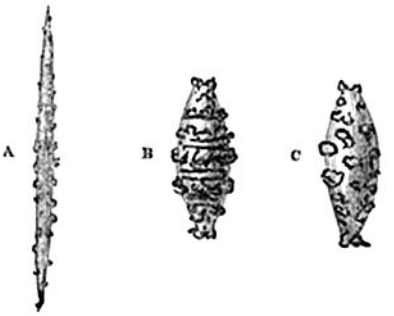
On Anthozoanthus parasiticus, *Deshayes*, MS. (Algiers.)
By H. J. Carter, F.R.S. (In a letter to Dr. J. E. Gray.)

This coral is figured, but not described, in Schleiden, 'Das Meer,' fig. 4.

Spicules calcareous, fusiform, tuberculated, some narrow, others thick, variable in length; the longest of the former 1-90th, the longest of the latter 1-180th of an inch; the narrow ones chiefly confined to the polypes, arranged obliquely (?) and parallel, embracing; the thicker ones arranged horizontally (?), interlocking with each other, as if formed in cells of this shape originally interlocking with each other; composing the greater part of the mass or cortex, which is parasitic upon a small, horny, branched stem.

As the narrow spicules are chiefly confined to the polypes, so these are the spicules which are chiefly coloured—red and yellow mixed in one of the specimens (the red-), and yellow only in the other (the yellow-polyped specimen), the red and yellow colours of their points respectively being thus produced.

The tubercles on the narrow fusiform spicules are more or less evenly scattered over the surface (A), from one end to the other, while those of the thicker ones are arranged in three or more bands or



rings, with plain intervals or rings (B) between them constricted; or the tubercles may be arranged irregularly throughout the shaft (C), whose extremities are also always tuberculated.

The two specimens, viz. the red- and yellow-polyped, are the same species.

It seems to me that the longer fusiform spicules generally run up round the polype, perhaps obliquely extending into the base of the tentacles.

Notes on Myriosteon. By H. J. Carter, F.R.S.
(In a letter to Dr. J. E. Gray.)

I can find no note in my journal of the piece of *Myriosteon* I took out from a Ray's nose on the south-east coast of Arabia—

nothing but mention of a set of placoid teeth, upper and under, of a species of *Myliobatis*, which I remember to have extracted from the remnants of another old dried Ray on the beach at the same time, and which I finally deposited in Prof. Huxley's hands in the Museum of Economic Geology. What became of the piece of *Myriosteon* I have forgotten altogether.

But that it *did come from the snout of a Ray*, and not of a *Pristis*, the little preparation I now send you seems to confirm.

In this preparation (taken from a *young* Thornback, which I found on the beach at Budleigh-Salterton on the 12th May) you will see your *Myriosteon* in miniature.

If you hold it up between you and the light, you will see, halfway up, on its surface the radiated ossclet structures with a common lens, and with a higher power the veritable ossclet structure of your *Myriosteon*.

Now, if you look into the cavity of the cranium (a portion of which still adheres to the snout), you will observe that this cavity is continued on into the *Myriosteon*; and a little imagination will enable you to see that this cavity represents the cribriform plate of the ethmoid bone prolonged into a conical tube, the holes of which, for the issue of the olfactory nerves, may be the holes which exist on each side of your *Myriosteon Higginsii*.

Geographical Distribution of Australian Whales.

I have just received a pair of the ear-bones of *Poescopia Novæ Zelandiæ* and some blades of the baleen of *Balæna marginata*, direct from the sea near Swan River, showing that both these species are common to the west coast of Australia and New Zealand.—J. E. Gray.

On the Structure of a Fern-stem from the Lower Eocene of Herne Bay, and on its Allies, recent and fossil. By W. Carruthers, Esq., F.L.S., F.G.S.

The author described the characters of the fossil-stem of a Fern obtained by George Dowker, Esq., F.G.S., from the beach at Herne Bay, and stated that in its structure it agreed most closely with the living *Osmunda regalis*, and certainly belonged to the Osmundaceæ. The broken petioles show a single crescentic vascular bundle. The section of the true stem shows a white parenchymatous medulla, a narrow vascular cylinder interrupted by long slender meshes from which the vascular bundles of the petioles spring, and a parenchymatous cortical layer. The author described the arrangement of these parts in detail, and indicated their agreement with the same parts in *Osmunda regalis*. He did not venture to refer the Fern, to which this stem had belonged, positively to the genus *Osmunda*, but preferred describing it as an *Osmundites*, under the name of *O. Dowkeri*. The specimen was silicified; and the author stated that