

and in the afternoon, rapidly passing over the edge of the plateau, we dredged in 725 fathoms with a bottom of muddy sand (Station 36). This is about the bathymetrical horizon at which we find the vitreous Sponges in the northern area; and although the bottom is here very different, much more sandy with but a slight admixture of globigerina ooze, we dredged a specimen, tolerably perfect though dead, of *Aphrocallistes bocagei*, WRIGHT, a vitreous sponge lately described by Dr. E. Perceval Wright from a specimen procured by Professor Barboza de Bocage from the Cape-Verde Islands, and one or two small specimens of *Holtenia carpenteri*, WY. T. The muddy sand contained a considerable proportion of gravel and dead shells.

On Thursday, July 22, the weather was still remarkably fine. The sea was moderate, with a slight swell from the north-west. We sounded in lat.  $47^{\circ} 38'$  N., long.  $12^{\circ} 08'$  W., in a depth of 2,435 fathoms (Station 37), when the average of the Miller-Casella thermometers gave a minimum temperature of  $2^{\circ} 5$  C.

As this was about the greatest depth which we had reason to expect in this neighbourhood, we prepared to take a cast of the dredge. This operation, rather a serious one in such deep water, will be described in detail in another chapter. It was perfectly successful. The dredge-bag which was safely hauled on deck at 1 o'clock on the morning of the 23rd, after an absence of  $7\frac{1}{4}$  hours and a journey of upwards of eight statute miles, contained  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of very characteristic grey chalk-mud. The dredge appeared to have dipped rather deeply into the