

of the Natural History Museum of Lisbon, greatly surprised the zoological world by a notice of the occurrence on the coast of Portugal of whisps of silicious spicules resembling those of the *Hyalonema* of Japan.¹ They were brought up by the Setubal shark-fishers, who, it seemed—an equally singular circumstance—plied their vocation at a depth of 500 fathoms. Professor Perceval Wright, anxious to ascertain the full history of the case and to get *Hyalonema* in a fresh state, went to Lisbon in the autumn of 1868, and with the assistance of Professor du Bocage and some of his friends procured at Setubal an open boat and a crew of eight men, with “600 fathoms of rope, the dredge, lots of hooks and bait, and provisions for a couple of days. Leaving the port of Setubal a little before five o’clock in the evening, we, after a fair night’s sailing, reached what the fishermen signed to me to be the edge of the deep-sea valley, where they were in the habit of fishing for sharks, and there, while thus engaged, they had found the *Hyalonema*. It was now about five o’clock in the morning; and the men, having had their breakfast, put the boat up to the wind, and let down the dredge; before it reached the bottom, about 480 fathoms of rope were run out, some thirty more were allowed for slack, and then we gently drew it—by hoisting a small foresail—for the distance of about a mile along the bottom. It required the united efforts of six men, hauling the line hand over hand, with the assistance of a double pulley-block, to pull in the dredge: the time thus occupied was just an

¹ Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for the Year 1864, p. 265.