

rind. He supposed that between this zoophyte and the sponge at its base, there subsisted a relation of guest and host, the zoophyte being constantly associated with the sponge; and in accordance with this view he proposed for the reception of the zoophyte a new group of alcyonarians under the name of 'Spongicolæ,' as distinguished from the 'Sabulicolæ' (*Pennatulæ*) and the 'Rupicolæ' (*Gorgoniæ*).

Dr. Gray's view seemed in many respects a natural one, and it was adopted in the main by Dr. Brandt of St. Petersburg, who in 1859 published a long memoir, describing a number of specimens brought from Japan to Russia. Dr. Brandt referred what he believed to be a zoophyte consisting of the coil and the crust, to a special group of sclerobasic zoantharians with a silicious axis.

One consideration militated strongly against this hypothesis of Dr. Gray and Professor Brandt. No known zoophyte had a purely silicious axis; and such an axis made up of loose separate spicules seemed strangely inconsistent with the harmony of the class. On the other hand, silicious spicules of all forms and sizes were conceivable in sponges; and in 1857 Professor Milne-Edwards, on the authority of Valenciennes, who was thoroughly versed in the structure of the *Gorgoniæ*, combined the sponge with the silicious rope, and degraded the zoophyte to the rank of an encrusting parasite.

Anything very strange coming from Japan is to be regarded with some distrust. The Japanese are wonderfully ingenious, and one favourite aim of their misdirected industry is the fabrication of impossible monsters by the curious combination of the