

an additional note on the habitat of *Hyalonema lusitanicum*. It appears that the fishermen of Setubal frequently bring up on their lines, from a considerable depth, coils of silicious threads closely resembling those of the Japanese species, which they even surpass in size, sometimes attaining a length of about 50 centimetres. The fishermen seem to be very familiar with them. They call them 'sea-whips,' but with the characteristic superstition of their class they regard all these extraneous matters as 'unlucky,' and usually tear them in pieces and throw them into the water. Judging from some specimens in the British Museum, and from Senhor du Bocage's figure, the 'glass-rope' of the Portuguese form is not so thick as that of *H. sieboldi*. There is also some slight difference in the sculpture of the long needles, but the structure of the sponge and the very characteristic forms of the small spicules are identical in the two. I doubt if there be more than varietal distinctions between the two forms; and if that be so, it adds another to the list of species common to our seas and the seas of Japan.

Perhaps the most singular circumstance connected with this discussion was that all this time we had been looking at the sponge upside down, and that it had never occurred to anyone to reverse it. We had probably taken this notion from the specimens stuck in stones, brought from Japan, and the sponge certainly looked very like the base of the edifice. Whenever the sponges were dredged on the coasts of Europe and compared with allied things, it became evident that the whisp was an organ of support passing out of the lower part of the sponge, and that the flat,