

I have already adverted to the danger we run in estimating the relative proportions in which any special groups may enter into the sum of the abyssal fauna, by the proportion in which they are recovered by any single method of capture. From their considerable size, the length and rigidity of their straggling rays, and their habit of clinging to fixed objects, the Echinodermata are not very readily taken

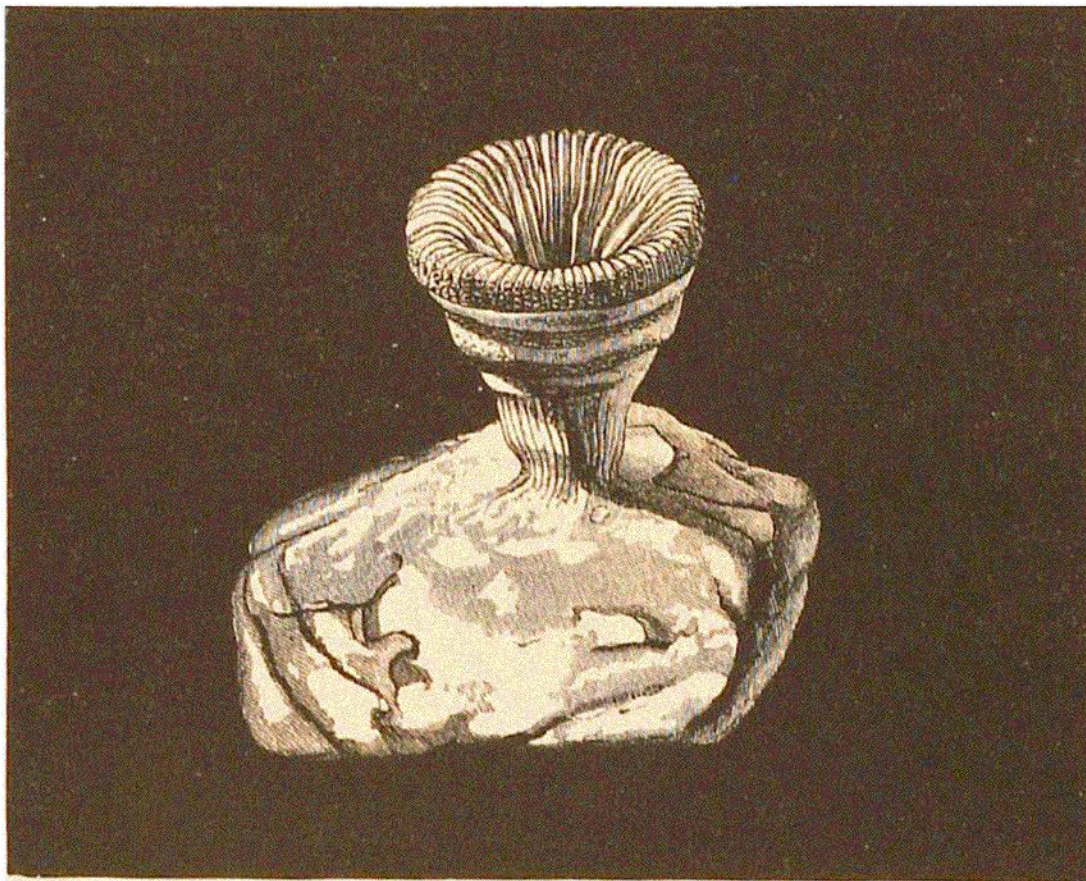


FIG. 60.—*Thecopsammia socialis*, FOURTALES. Once and a half the natural size. (No. 57 1869.)

by the dredge, but they fall an easy prey to the 'hempen tangles.' It is possible that this circumstance may to a certain extent exaggerate their apparent abundance at great depths, but we have direct evidence in the actual numbers which are brought up, that in some places they must be won-