

were of organic origin at all; and after carefully examining and pondering over several groups of them, at Boaz Island, on the shore at Mount Langton, and elsewhere, I finally came to the conclusion that they were not fossils, but something totally different.

The form given in Fig. 79 is the most characteristic, and probably by far the most common; but very frequently one of a group of these—one which is evidently essentially the same as the rest, and formed in the same way—has an oval or an irregular shape (Figs. 80, 81, and 82). In these we have the same raised border, the same scars on the outside, the same origins of root-like fibres, and the same pitting of the bottom of the shallow cup; but their form precludes the possibility of their being

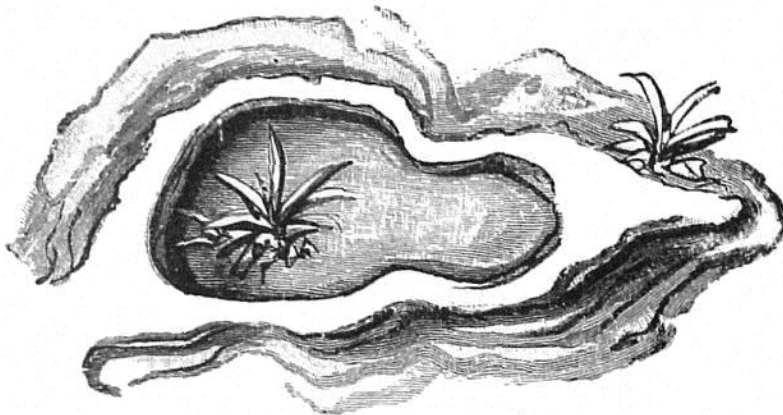


FIG. 82.—Calcareous Concretion, Bermudas.

tree-roots. In some cases (Fig. 83), a group of so-called “palm-stems” is inclosed in a space surrounded by a ridge, and on examining it closely this outer ridge is found to show the same leaf-scars and traces of rootlets as the palm-stems themselves. In some cases very irregular honey-combed figures are produced, which the examination of a long series of intermediate forms shows to belong to the same category (Fig. 84).

In the caves in the limestone, owing to a thread of water having found its way in a particular direction through the porous stone of the roof, a drop falls age after age on one spot on the cave-floor accurately directed by the stalactite which it is all the time creating. The water contains a certain propor-