

schoolmaster, who had come to St. Vincent to join the "Challenger," got lost on one of the mountains just before the arrival of the ship, and died of exposure. His body was found only after the lapse of several months.

On a visit to Bird Rock, I found that the sea birds' dung forms there, as at St. Paul's Rocks, pendent stalactite-like masses. The rock is composed of volcanic conglomerate and tuff, traversed in all directions by dikes of hard almost obsidian-like lava. Small rock pools at a short distance above the waves were filled with solid salt evaporated out from the spray. On the main island, on the windward side, the shore rocks are covered high up with an incrustation of salt dried out from the spray blown up by the trade wind. Men-of-war use Bird Rock occasionally as a target, and there were plenty of broken shot and shell upon it.

At low tide, along the shore of the main island, numerous rock pools were exposed at low tide. These are inhabited by vast numbers of sea urchins (*Echinometra*), which rest within rounded cavities in the rock excavated by the urchins for themselves, both in the calcareous sand rock and volcanic conglomerate. With these was a coral (*Porites*), which forms small rounded masses, bright yellow or whitish pink in colour, and a grey Palythoa, a compound sea anemone, that is a colony composed of sea anemones closely joined together, and here forming sheet-like masses often a foot in diameter, encrusting the rock. An *Aplysia*, or sea slug, with a pair of large skin folds continued up from the sides of the body, and lapping together over the back of the animal, was common, and is probably the one referred to by Darwin, as seen at St. Jago.\*

A Rock-crab (*Grapsus strigosus cf.*) was very abundant, running about all over the rocks, and making off into clefts on one's approach. I was astonished at the keen and long sight of this crab. I noticed some make off at full pace to their hiding-places at the instant that my head showed above a rock fifty yards distant. The crab often makes for the under side of a ledge of rock when escaping from danger, and may then be caught resting in fancied security by the hand brought suddenly over it from above. The dry rocks were covered with the dung of the crab, which is in the form of small brittle white sticks about an inch in length, very puzzling objects at first sight. The cast shells of the crab, which are bright red and very conspicuous, were lying all over the rocks.

At Still Bay, on the sandy beach of which, although it is on the leeward side of the island and the sea surface was smooth,

\* Darwin, "Journal of Researches," p. 6.