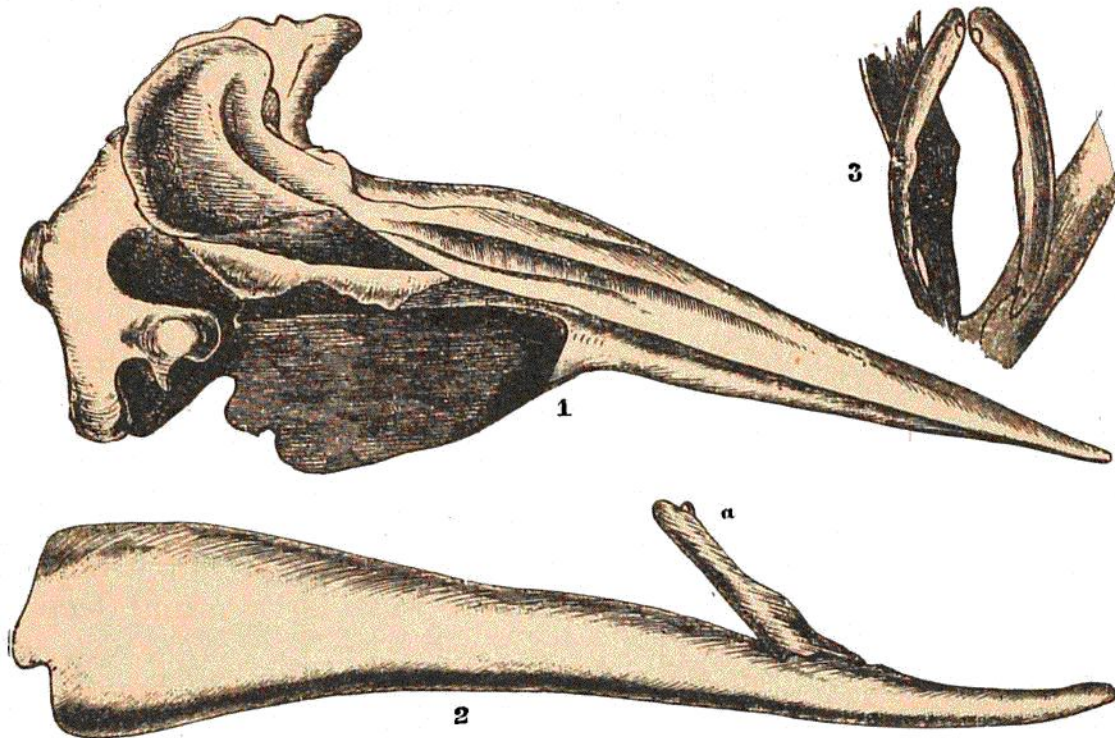


gelatinous slime which they discharged from the surfaces of their bodies when drawn on board. The slime forms masses of a jelly-like substance.

The villages between Simons Bay and Wynberg have fences made of various bones of whales. A whale fishery was formerly carried on here, but no longer pays. An extremely interesting and very rare whale is occasionally procured at the Cape. It is a Ziphioid, *Mesoplodon Layardii*. The Ziphioids are a group of the toothed whales and allied to the sperm whale. They have the bones of the face and upper jaw drawn out and compressed into a long beak-like snout which is composed of solid bone, hard and compact like ivory. The upper jaw is devoid of teeth, having lost them in the process of evolution;



1 Skull of *Mesoplodon Layardii*. 2 Lower jaw; *a* small cap of dentine on the tooth.
3 Top of lower jaw seen from the front, showing the ring formed by the teeth. Copied from the British Museum Catalogue of Seals and Whales.

and the lower jaw, which is lengthened and pointed to correspond with the upper, retains but a single pair of teeth.

In the species in question, *Mesoplodon Layardii*, these two teeth in the adult animal become lengthened by continuous growth of the fangs into long curved tusks. These arch over the upper jaw or beak, and crossing one another above it at their tips, form a ring round it and lock the lower jaw, so that the animal can only open its mouth for a very small distance indeed. The tusks are seen always to be worn away in front by the grating of the confined upper jaw against them. How