

neighbourhood of Grenada, Martinique, Guadeloupe, and Bequia. He speaks of this new species as follows:—"It occurs in two varieties; the one resembles a shallow or but moderately deep cup, which is provided inferiorly with a rounded or short, often somewhat irregularly twisted, pointed stalk; the other is sack-like, with an irregular margin, with irregular pocket-like divisions and excavations, which are separated by somewhat thin lappet-like partitions, just like a beggar's sack. The latter forms are a foot in length and seem to be sunk in the mud up to the upper margin." In a netted covering-layer, which is particularly well developed in the beaker-like variety, O. Schmidt found fir-tree-like spicules. "On the margin of the beaker-like variety the covering-layer usually projects as a plaited fringe, and extends from the outer towards the inner surface. Above this there projects a dense row of imperfectly developed hexradiate spicules, and needles with an axial cross. The whole body is unusually rich in double 'quirls,'¹ which vary greatly in dimensions and in individual form."

Oscar Schmidt notes especially that although *Asconema kentii* agrees completely in the form, consistence, and especially in the felt-like condition of its walls with *Asconema setubalense*, Kent, the agreement by no means extends to the spicules.

The dried specimen of this species was kindly lent to me by Oscar Schmidt, and is figured in Pl. XXX. fig. 9. That it does not belong to the genus *Asconema*, but to *Hyalonema*, will be pointed out in the detailed description of the characteristics of the species *Hyalonema kentii*, which will be given below.

In a short report on the voyages of the French ships "Travailleur" and "Talisman," Filhol² gives a woodcut and the following notices of *Asconema setubalense*:—"L'Asconema setubalense n'avait été trouvé jusqu'au voyage du Talisman que sur les côtes du Portugal. Lors de la campagne de ce dernier bateau, nous l'avons recueilli sur les côtes du Maroc, au voisinage du cap Bojador, par 410 mètres. Les deux exemplaires que nous en avons obtenus vivaient fixés par leur base sur des roches ou sur des coraux (Lophohelia) dont le chalut contenait de nombreux débris." And on p. 289:—"Les Asconema ont été trouvées avec les Aphrocallistes."

The genus contains only one species.

Asconema setubalense, Saville Kent (Pl. XXI).

A thin-walled cup in which the wide superior opening is surrounded by a simple, smooth, thin margin, while the narrowed inferior extremity seems to be firmly fixed. Among the sponges of the expedition of H.M.S. "Triton," which were entrusted to me for review, I observed the fragment figured in Pl. XXI. fig. 1, and some small specimens of a Hexactinellid, which, after comparison with Kent's original in the

¹ Quirl = a short round stick provided with a toothed disc on one extremity.

² La vie au fond des mers, p. 285, fig. xcii., 1885.