

Thomson *Hyalonema toxeres*, is distinguished by its remarkably strong, bow-shaped, spindle-like spicules.

In the same year, 1877, M. and J. Young¹ reported on fossil remains from the carboniferous strata of Cunningham Baidland, near Dalry in Ayrshire, which included not only the *Hyalonema parallelum*, M'Coy, already described by Süss, but a second species, *Hyalonema smithii*, Young and Young. Besides the long, straight, smooth, knitting-needle-like spicules which Süss refers to in *Hyalonema parallelum*, the Youngs found also short five-rayed and six-rayed spicules.

Among the sponges which A. B. Meyer brought home from the Philippines and New Guinea, and handed over to Bowerbank for description, there was a cup-shaped specimen which Bowerbank² briefly described in 1877, and in spite of the entirely distinct form of the spicules identified as a *Hyalonema* from which the basal tuft had been torn off. This he named *Hyalonema anqmalum*. Dr. A. B. Meyer had the kindness to hand over to me at my request a portion of this same specimen belonging to the Dresden Zoological Museum, and I have been able to convince myself that we have here to deal *not* with a *Hyalonema*, but with a badly-preserved specimen of *Crateromorpha meyeri*; and with this the description given by Bowerbank himself agrees.

In the abundant sponge material which was collected during the deep-sea expedition by Agassiz and Pourtalés in the Gulf of Mexico, and entrusted to Oscar Schmidt for examination, this renowned spongiologist found only two specimens of *Hyalonema*.³ The larger specimen consisted only of a torn off spicular tuft partly covered by a crust of *Palythoa*. The other, which was distinctly smaller, was however completely preserved, and bore a sieve-net over its upper extremity. The latter was identified by O. Schmidt as *Hyalonema sieboldii*.

In the Bay of Biscay, during the French expedition of the "Travailleur," a specimen of *Hyalonema lusitanicum* was dredged, according to Norman's⁴ account, from a depth of 600 fathoms.

In the report by G. Armauer Hansen on the Sponges of the Norske Nordhavs Expedition, a badly-preserved Hexactinellid is described and figured (1885). It was obtained from a depth of 1081 fathoms, lat. 63° 17' N., long. 1° 27' W., on *Biloculina* clay. Armauer Hansen had for examination (*loc. cit.*, p. 19) "several specimens with round hollow stems of somewhat variable thickness, measuring up to 3 cm. in length, and surrounded at the one extremity by a very loose almost cotton-like substance." Since I observe a discohexact among the siliceous spicules figured (*loc. cit.*, pl. v. fig. 10), and since "the stem is composed exclusively of spicules which are truncato-spinose at both extremities," I can in no way agree with Armauer Hansen's opinion that this

¹ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 4, vol. xx. p. 425.

² *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, p. 461.

³ O. Schmidt, *Spongien des Meerbusens von Mexico*, 1879 and 1880, p. 64.

⁴ *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. vi. p. 436.