

more complex structure than had at first been suspected. The body which had been projected from the capsule, and which had appeared in the recent zoophyte a simple filament with a spiral groove, was now seen to be composed of a delicate transparent tube marked with circular or spiral striæ, and having within it a spiral filament which with rather distant coils wound through its entire length (fig. 7).

Both sets of bodies now described are slowly but effectually dissolved by nitric acid without effervescence, appearing to be neither siliceous nor calcareous, but of a truly animal composition. That they are analogous to the lancet-bearing capsules discovered by Corda in *Hydra*, and whose existence I have myself been enabled to verify, there can I think be no doubt. Bodies strictly analogous, though differing somewhat in detail, I have detected in three other genera of Helianthoid Zoophytes, namely *Actinia*, *Anthea* and *Lucernaria*, while Ehrenberg, Wagner, Erdl, Quatrefages, Bailey and others have described similar organs in this and other families of Invertebrata.

In attempting to assign a use to the bodies in question some difficulty is encountered; perhaps the most tenable opinion is that generally held, namely, that they are in some way connected with the predaceous habits of the animal, and are most likely gifted with the power of inflicting envenomed wounds on the creatures which constitute its prey.

*Corynactis viridis* is a charming little animal, and by no means rare in the locality where I discovered it; the brilliancy of its colours and the great elegance of its tentacular crown when fully expanded render it eminently attractive; hundreds may often be seen in a single pool, and few sights will be retained with greater pleasure by the naturalist than that presented by these little zoophytes as they spread abroad their green and rosy crowns among the many-tinted sea-weeds and plummy corals, cotenants of their rocky vases.

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LII.—*Notes on the Botany of Scinde.* By J. E. STOCKS, M.D., Assistant-Surgeon Bombay Fusileers. Extract from a Letter to ARTHUR HENFREY, F.L.S. &c.

Sukkur, Upper Scinde, March 14th, 1846.

THE country about Kurrachee is very desolate, the immediate neighbourhood of the sea low and flat, the sandy soil bound together by the *Ipomœa Pes Capia*, and on the muddy shores of the creek grow *Rhizophora candelaria* and *Salicornia indica*. The *Rhizophora* grows within water-mark, is like a tree in appearance and habit, but not above two feet high, and a bank of it looks like a miniature forest. The soil beyond the immediate limits of the beach is bare, and the



rocky soil comes up from the adjoining mountains which bound Scinde on the north. All is bare, no trees and no surface vegetation, but great abundance of the *Euphorbia nereifolia*, which, like a *Cactus*, fleshy and leafless, spreads its whitened stems and withered stumps in patches as large as a small haystack. There are a few gardens in which grow tamarinds, mangoes, bheres (*Zizyphus vulgaris*), and the date-palm (*Phoenix sylvestris*) springs up wild in every compound. However, Sir Charles Napier is doing great things; has planted rows of young trees over all the avenues and streets; and has formed a capital Government garden, which is a dépôt for garden shrubs, and supplies the troops with fresh European vegetables. The favourite garden shrubs in Kurrachee are *Ricinus communis*, *Æschynomyne Sestian*, *Parkinsonia aculeata*, and, for hedges, the milk-bush (*Euphorbia Tirucalli*), with its leafless, rush-like, flexible branches. The peepul and banyan (*Ficus religiosa* and *F. indica*), and the bheres (*Zizyphus vulgaris* and *Z. Jujuba*), are the trees planted in the avenues. On our first march from Kurrachee, about eight miles out, the Indus soil and vegetation commenced; dry creeks, dry water-furrows and a loose sandy soil, characterized by tamarisk jungle (*Tamarix gallica* and *T. dioica*) and *Salvadora persica*; low bushes of *Acacia* (*arabica*, *Catechu*), and *Mimosa* (*rubicaulis*, &c.), also abundance of the camel-thorn (*Alhagi Maurorum*). Among herbaceous plants I occasionally found a *Polygonum*, a *Gnaphalium*, a *Solanum*, &c., and above all these grows everywhere the *Capparis aphylla*, which I have told you before is also very common in Guzerat.

We passed to Tattah on the Indus, and went up the right bank as far as Hyderabad, where we crossed over to the left bank and proceeded to Rorea, which is on the side opposite to Sukkur. Before coming to Hyderabad we crossed rocky ground for some marches, where the Hala mountains come down to the river bank. Here we met with the *Euph. nereifolia* again, and two apparently new Zygo-phylleaceous plants, at least I do not find them in Indian floras. On the banks of the Indus from Torrock to Sukkur grow *Ranunculus indicus*, Roxb., a *Potentilla*, and *Rumex acutus*! About Sukkur the river runs through an isolated tract of limestone hills, and the date-palm is very luxuriant, covering acres of low ground by the river; it is now in flower.

### LIII.—*Botanical Notices from Spain.*

By MORITZ WILLKOMM\*.

[Continued from p. 347.]

No. XIII. SEVILLE, October 25, 1845.

AFTER a hasty visit to the unimportant Sierra de Elvira, which rises out of the middle of the plain of Granada, and is distinguished by the unusually frequent occurrence of *Chrysocome verticalis*, Lag., I

\* Translated from the Botanische Zeitung, Jan. 23, 1846.





Stocks, J E. 1846. "LII.—Note on the Botany of Scinde. Extract from a Letter to Arthur Henfrey, F.L.S. &c." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 17, 419–420. <https://doi.org/10.1080/037454809495849>.

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