

# NOTE ON AGAR-AGAR SEAWEED FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

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Dr. J. B. Cleland exhibited an agar-agar seaweed (*Gigastina disticha*, Sonder), kindly forwarded to him from Western Australia by Inspector Abjornsson of the Fisheries Department there. Mr. Abjornsson referred to it as being useful as a demulcent drink. It is apparently closely related to Irish Moss (*Chondrus crispus*). From some of this seaweed nutrient media have been prepared, and solid and sloped tubes of the product were exhibited. The proportions used were those taken for the preparation of ordinary agar-agar media as used in bacteriological laboratories. The tubes showed a remarkably clear product, one almost as transparent as gelatine, and this condition had been obtained without the addition of white of egg for clearing. Apparently a little more of the seaweed is required than of agar-agar, as two tubes inoculated with streptococci and colon bacilli and incubated, had 'slipped' a little and shown an undue amount of water of condensation. Ordinary organisms grew well on the substratum. As a large amount of agar is used in laboratories in Australia and, domestically, it is very useful for making table jellies in warm weather, the occurrence of this plant in Western Australia may be of some economic importance.



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