much alike. The female occupies the centre, and seems really but a prolongation of the main stem, on the top of which is an articulation from which the ovarium springs. The capsula readily falls from this articulation when mature. From the base of the female central peduncle spring weaker peduncles, colourless, appearing indeed almost like filaments, articulated at about the same height as the female, only above the point bearing a short filament and anther—the caducous part before referred to. No one can fail to see the correspondence of plan in these different parts; and I think that nothing but the favourable position in the direct line of axial vigour made the central flower a female one.

Cases occasionally occur in which a tolerably strong head of wholly male flowers will develop the central axis into a pedicel *almost as long and vigorous as those which bear female flowers*. But the flow of vital force (if I am correct in using the term) not being quite sufficient, the final goal of natural perfection in the female form was not reached. These cases do not occur often, but are well worth looking for, as they show so clearly the dividing line between the forces which govern the male or female sex.—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philad.* 1870, p. 14.

Fossil Sponge-spicules.

We hear that Mr. Wm. Vicary, of Exeter, well known for his successful researches into the Silurian and Devonian fossil fauna found in the pebbles of Budleigh-Salterton, has discovered in the Greensand of the hills of Haldon and Blackdown respectively, in Devonshire, a number of beautiful sponge-spicules belonging to Dr. J. E. Gray's *Corallispongia*, in part (Dr. W. Thomson's order "*Vitrea*" and Dr. O. Schmidt's *Hexactinellidæ*), also to the *Tethyadæ* and *Geodidæ*. Mr. Parfitt, of Exeter, has described and illustrated them in a paper on the subject which he is about to read before the Devon Association for the Advancement of Science, Literature, and Art, at their annual meeting, to be held at Devonport on the 26th of July and following days.

The spicules appear to be in the remains of an arenaceous sponge, heterogeneously mixed up with the grains of quartz of which it was otherwise composed, thus representing the other kinds of sponges which existed in the locality then, just as the spiculo-arenaceous sponges of the present day bear indications of what other sponges exist in the localities where they now grow respectively.

On the Zoological Affinities of the Sponges.

Mr. Wm. S. Kent forwards us a letter to the effect that he has glanced through Mr. Lankester's criticism on his paper respecting Prof. Hæckel's supposed relationship of the Sponges to the Corals. Mr. Kent having but recently returned from his dredging-expedition on the coasts of Spain and Portugal, and having had a pressure of work of higher importance to attend to, he has not had leisure to reply to Mr. Lankester's communication in the present number of this Journal. He looks forward, however, with much pleasure to answering it in our next.

1870. "Fossil sponge-spicules." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 6, 192–192.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/00222937008696230>.

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