

and the information received from Iceland and the Faroe Islands is not as yet sufficiently comprehensive to enable one to speak with confidence regarding the composition of the littoral fauna there. In Iceland, however, if we may judge from our knowledge of the hydroid fauna in the boreal coast areas, the conditions are very similar to those on the Scandinavian coasts, and the same is true also of the North Sea coasts of Britain.

If we compare the North Sea coasts with the Skagerrack coasts of Scandinavia we find many points of resemblance, the littoral fauna for the most part living under similar natural conditions in both areas. The tides of the Skagerrack, however, are inconsiderable and irregular, and in consequence forms, which on the North Sea coasts belong to the low-tide area, can undoubtedly live here in shallow water and on the same kind of bottom, but they are not left regularly exposed by the ebb. A good instance of this may be seen in the case of the hydroids *Clava squamata* and *Laomedea flexuosa*, which are quite common on the fucoids in spite of the fact that the ebb-tide only on rare occasions leaves them exposed. On the other hand, certain species, which are not met with in the low-tide area of the North Sea, and consequently do not patronise the fucus there, attach themselves to these algæ on the Skagerrack coasts. It is evident from this that it is not the actual foundation but the natural conditions and the ability to adapt themselves to these conditions which determine the distribution of the animals in the strand-belt.

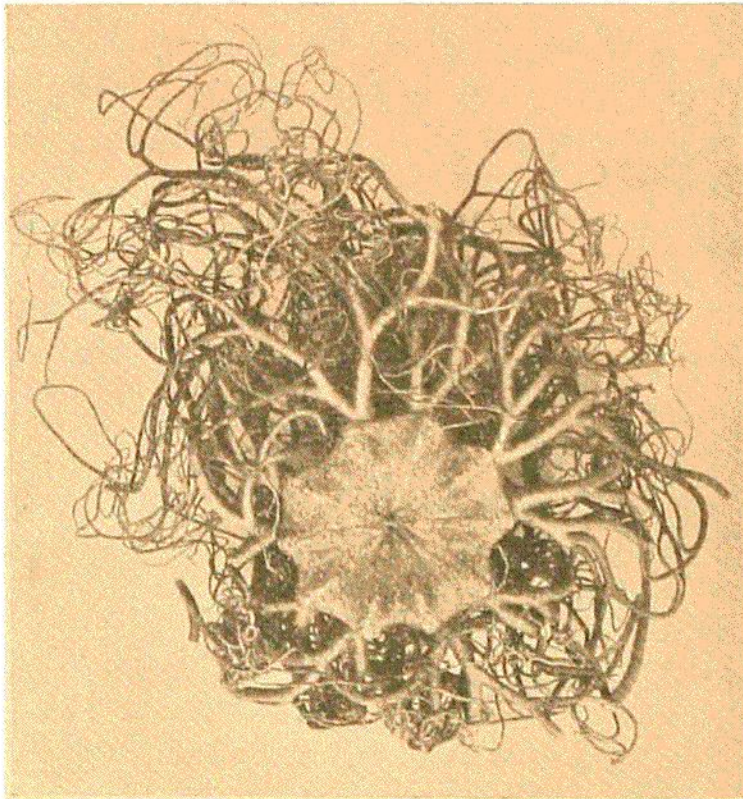


FIG. 345.

*Gorgonocephalus linckii*, M. and T., var. Reduced.

Although the littoral faunas of these two coastal areas bear a very strong resemblance to each other, there are yet