

## IV.

*Description of a Zoophyte, commonly found about the  
Coasts of Singapore Island,—with a Plate.*

BY MAJOR GENERAL THOMAS HARDWICKE, F. R. L. & A. S.

Read 13th November, 1819.

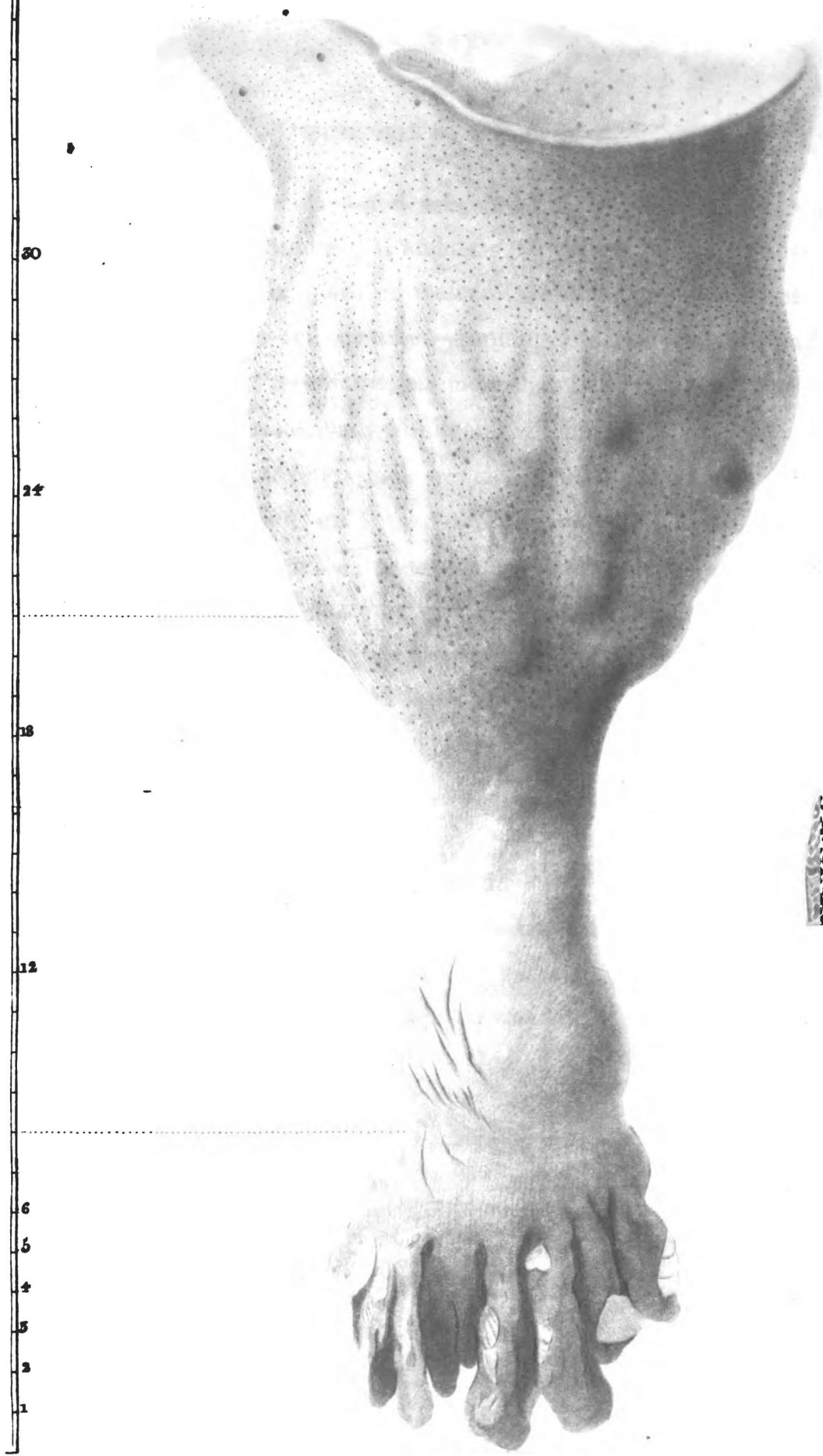
**T**HIS subject belongs to the Genus Spongia, to the class Vermes—  
and is of the order Zoophytes.—From its peculiar form, we propose to  
term it

**SPONGIA PATERA.** *270. Moll. e's Goblet.*

**ROOT.**—Branching, the shoots of various thickness, from the size of a  
finger to 3 inches in diameter, slightly diverging, composed of earth,  
sand, and broken shells, and very fragile.

**STEM.**—Cylindrical, of the same cellular texture as the bowl, and about  
the same length, in circumference, pretty equal—from 15 to 17 inches  
diameter—surface porous.

3/4 inches - 3 feet / inch



CUP—OR BOWL.—Circular—and subconical, in diameter at the brim 17 inches, about the middle  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , and near the bottom 7 inches, capable of containing thirty six quarts of water: in substance corky—but non-elastic, made up of cells or tubes—running into one another, and divided by a slender membrane, not more than half a line in thickness: over the whole surface, both within and without, are spread innumerable pores, the mouths of which are closed with capillary—cottony—fibres in converging radii from the circumference to the centre of each pore; these when seen under the power of a common lens, have a dense downy appearance.

THE height of the specimen, from which this description is taken, is 37 inches, and something larger than one presented to the Asiatic Society by JOHN PALMER, Esq.

IN an Essay on *British Sponges*, by the late GEORGE MONTAGU, Esq. printed in the 2d volume of the *Wernerian Society's Transactions*, is described—“*Spongia Scypha*”—which bears some resemblance to the specimen from which the plate annexed was taken, but it is diminutive in all its parts, when compared to this Indian species.

*This production has never yet been discovered where but near England. (1838.)*

**ASIATICK RESEARCHES;**

OR

**TRANSACTIONS**

OF THE

**S O C I E T Y,**

**INSTITUTED IN BENGAL,**

FOR ENQUIRING INTO THE

HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES, THE ARTS, SCIENCES, AND  
LITERATURE,

OF

**A S I A.**

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VOLUME THE FOURTEENTH.

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1822.

# CONTENTS

OF THE

## FOURTEENTH VOLUME.

- I. *Account of a Discovery of a modern imitation of the Védas, with Remarks on the Genuine Works.* By FRANCIS ELLIS, Esq. .... I
- II. *Journal of a Survey to the Heads of the Rivers, Ganges and Jumna.* By Captain J. A. HODGSON. .... 60
- III. *Latitudes of Places in Hindustan, and the Northern Mountains; with Observations of Longitude in the Mountains, according to Immersions and Emersions of Jupiter's Satellites.* By Captain J. A. HODGSON, .... 153
- IV. *Description of a Zoophyte, commonly found about the Coasts of Singapore Island.* By Major General THOMAS HARDWICKE, F. R. S. and V. P. of the A. S. .... 180
- V. *Description of a Substance called Gez or Manna, and the Insect producing it.* By Major General THOMAS HARDWICKE, F. R. S. and V. P. of the A. S. .... 182
- VI. *An account of Trigonometrical and Astronomical Operations for determining the Heights and Positions of the principal Peaks of the Himálaya Mountains.* By Captain J. A. HODGSON and Lieut. J. D. HERBERT. .... 187
- VII. *On the ancient Geography of India.* By Lieutenant Colonel F. WILFORD. .... 373

VIII. *On the Sorex Glis.* By Messrs. DIARD and DUVAUCEL, communicated by Major General HARDWICKE, F. R. S. and V. P. of the A. S. .... 471

IX. *On an Indian method of constructing Arches.* By Captain MACKINTOSH. .... 476

X. *An account of the Cootab Minar, and the Inscriptions in its vicinity.* By WALTER EWER, Esq. .... 480

*Appendix and Errata.*

**DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER.**

Plate	1	to face page	180
—	2	—	182
—	3	—	187
—	4	—	225
—	5	—	230
—	6	—	235
—	7	—	280
—	8	—	339
—	9	—	471
—	10	—	476
—	11	—	480

1461  
43-100  
12-4