

grow; and for the same reason we find few living zoöphytes upon sandy or muddy shores.

The small lagoons, when shut out from the influx of the sea, are often rendered too salt for growing zoöphytes, in consequence of evaporation,—a condition of the lagoon of Enderby's Island.

They also are liable to become highly heated by the sun, which likewise would lead to their depopulation.

Coral zoöphytes sometimes suffer injury from being near large fleshy *Alcyonia*, whose crowded drooping branches lying over against them, destroy the polyps and mar the growing mass. Again, the dead parts of a zoöphyte, though in very many cases protected by incrusting nullipores, shells, bryozoans, &c., as already explained, in others is weakened by boring shells and sponges. Agassiz states in his paper on the Florida Reefs (Coast Survey Report for 1851): "Innumerable boring animals establish themselves in the lifeless stem, piercing holes in all directions into its interior, like so many augurs, dissolving its solid connection with the ground, and even penetrating far into the living portion of these compact communities. The number of these boring animals is quite incredible, and they belong to different families of the animal kingdom; among the most active and powerful we would mention the date-fish or *Lithodomus*, several *Saxicavæ*, *Petricolæ*, *Acæ*, and many worms, of which the *Serpula* is the largest and most destructive, inasmuch as it extends constantly through the living part of the coral stems, especially in the *Mæandrina*. On the loose basis of a *Mæandrina*, measuring less than two feet in diameter, we have counted not less than fifty holes of the date-fish—some large enough to admit a finger—besides hundreds of small ones made by worms. But however efficient these boring animals may be in preparing the coral stems for decay, there is yet another agent, perhaps still more destructive. We allude to the minute boring-sponges, which penetrate them in all directions, until they appear at last completely rotten through."

On the other hand, *Serpulas* and certain kinds of barnacles