

the islands to the extent of five feet or so. Similar fragments of raised reef were found by Mr. Murray at a short distance up the bed of the stream already mentioned. A massive porites was one of the corals on the reef. Some specimens of this species were unattached, though living, being in the form of rounded masses, entirely covered with living polyps, and I suppose from time to time rolled over by the waves. They reminded me of the similarly detached rounded masses formed by some Lichens (*Lecanora esculenta*), which are rolled about over the land by the winds as are these coral colonies by the waves.

On the reefs were comparatively few free living animals, but here I saw for the first time one of the huge *Synaptas*, which are abundant amongst the East Indian Islands and at the Philippines. The animal was a yard long and two inches in diameter, and looked like an ugly brown and black snake. The instant I touched one I knew what it was, for I felt the anchor-shaped hooks in its skin cling to my hand.

One animal on the reefs I could not understand the nature of. About six white tentacles, each nearly six inches in length, and of a uniform thickness of not more than  $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch, were expanded on the reef in a radiate manner. On irritation they were slowly but entirely retracted. I could not succeed in digging the owner of them out of the reef rock. I have never seen this animal elsewhere.

Above the shore the first land plant met with is the ubiquitous tropical littoral plant (*Ipomoea pes caprae*). It is always the first plant above the high-water mark in these tropical shores. Above a skirting of this commenced a thick growth of largish trees, a species of *Barringtonia*, a Fig, and the common *Pandanus* of the Pacific Islands occupying the shore margin. A few paces inside the wood it was gloomy, from the thickness of the growth of trees and creepers overhead. The same climbing Aroids grew here as at Fiji, and a *Dracena* was common, and also a beautiful climbing Asclepiad (*Hoya*) with white waxy flowers, and one or two ferns. I could not penetrate the wood far enough to get any adequate idea of the nature of the vegetation. Five birds were shot in Api, *Artamus melaleucus* (a Shrike), a Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*), a Swift, a Fruit Pigeon, and the Kingfisher (*Halcyon julie*). I saw no sea birds.

The Api men wore as clothing nothing but a narrow bandage of dirty European fabric of various kinds. They are a small race, few, I should say, being above five feet in height. Their limbs, and especially their legs, are small and badly shaped. They are much darker in colour than Fijians; they seemed quiet enough. Several amongst those we saw were returned