

Pneumatocyst of the Physophores

It has always been supposed that the pneumatocyst of the Physophores is closed ; but to-day I was able to observe the escape of the air-bubble from the air-cavity of a young *Stephanomia bijuga*, about 5 mm. in length. It had been placed in 50/50 magnesium chloride (7 per cent) and sea water to relax it ; and the escape of the air-bubble took place some twenty minutes later. Twenty minutes after return to sea water, the air-cavity was 60 per cent full of air again.

At the time of expulsion I was examining the nectosac with a high-power objective, and the pneumatocyst was not in the field ; so that I only observed the specimen heel over and sink quite suddenly. On examination, the pneumatocyst was found to have collapsed, and there was only a small bubble left at its base.

A grant from the Royal Society enabled me to make a study of living Mediterranean Siphonophores.

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June 14,