

**A NEW SPECIES OF *PETALOPHYLLUM*,
PETALOPHYLLUM INDICUM KASHYAP.***

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Two species of the genus *Petalophyllum* have been described by Stephani in his *Species Hepaticarum*. None has so far been found in India. The present note describes a new species found on the bank of the river Ravi in Lahore.

Plants simple or furcate, growing singly or in patches of 3 or 4, up to 12 mm. long and 7 mm. broad. Basal portion cylindrical and wingless. Wing many-layered at the base, gradually becoming one-layered, wavy along the margin. Lamellae one cell thick and 15 to 24 cells high, running outwards and forwards, not always parallel. Dioecious. Antheridia in groups behind the apex, protected by scattered scales. Archegonia in groups of 4-7 on the midrib, protected by a bell-shaped perianth with a lacerated margin, often with 2 or 3 splits along the whole length. Sporogonia 1-4, usually one in each perianth. Pedicel usually 10 to 20 mm. long sometimes very short, occasionally up to 25 mm. Capsule 2 mm. in diameter, spherical, dark brown. Capsule wall usually 3-layered; cells of outer layer thin-walled, with thick radial walls sometimes; those of the inner layers with thick annular or sometimes semi-annular bands. Spores dark brown, about 40μ in diameter, spherical with a membranous wavy margin, reticulate-lamellate, 3-4 reticulations in the diameter; reticulations pentagonal or hexagonal, $8-10\mu$, marginal wing 14 to 17μ . Elaters trispiral, lightly coloured except the spiral bands which are very distinct brown and lax, $280-400\mu$ long, $8-10\mu$ broad, simple or occasionally branched, attenuated towards both ends. A few elaters are short and broad, about 16μ broad.

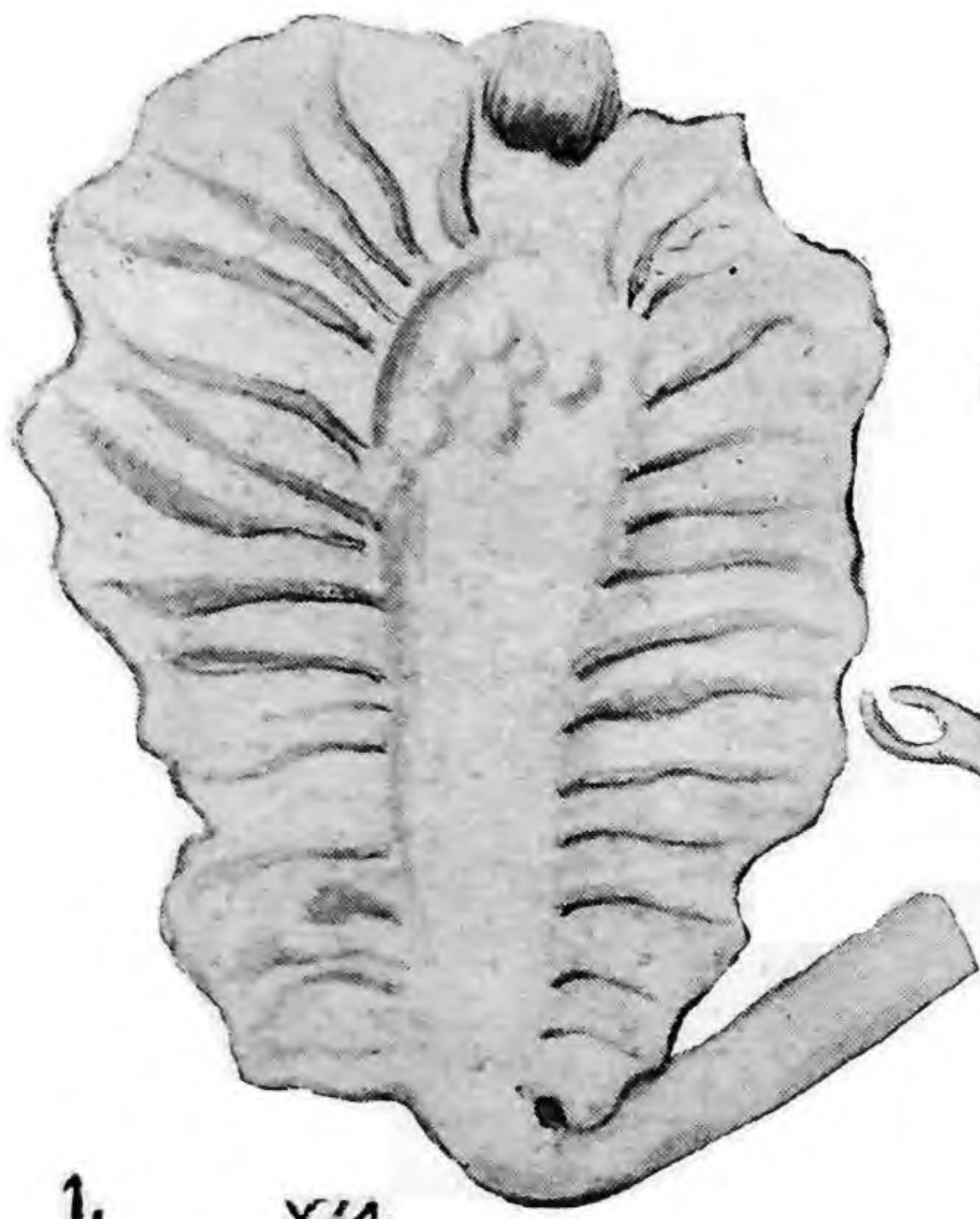
At the end of the season the apex becomes thickened, forming a tuber, and becomes buried underground.

Found by Pt. Bhagat Ram Vasisht, M. Sc., for the first time in November 1925, on the banks of the river Ravi at Lahore. The plant grows in winter.

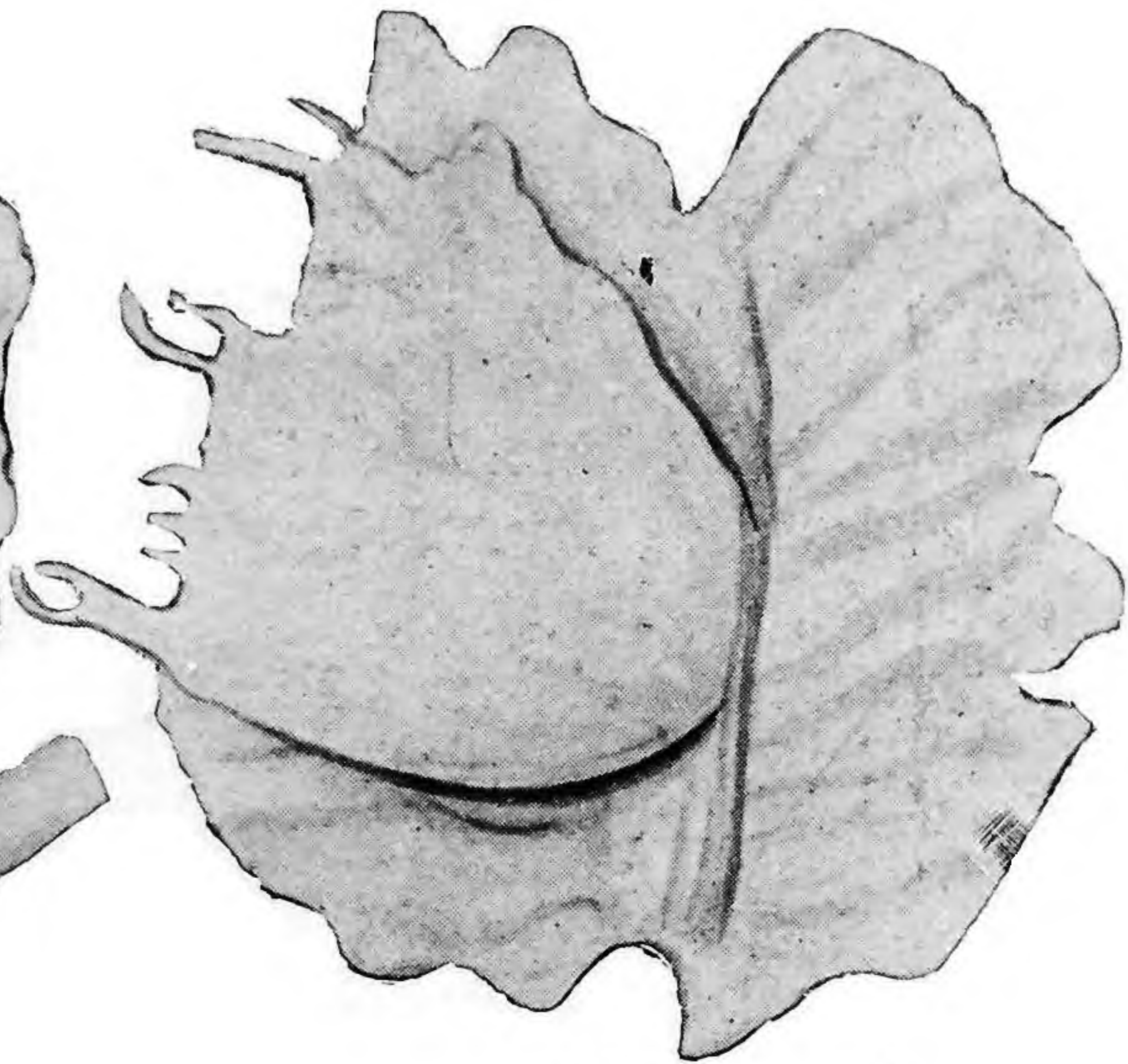
Explanation of figures 1-5

1. A male plant with a few antheridia. Note the apical tuber.
2. A female plant with the perianth.
3. A perianth with a ripe sporogonium.
4. Two spores.
5. An elater.

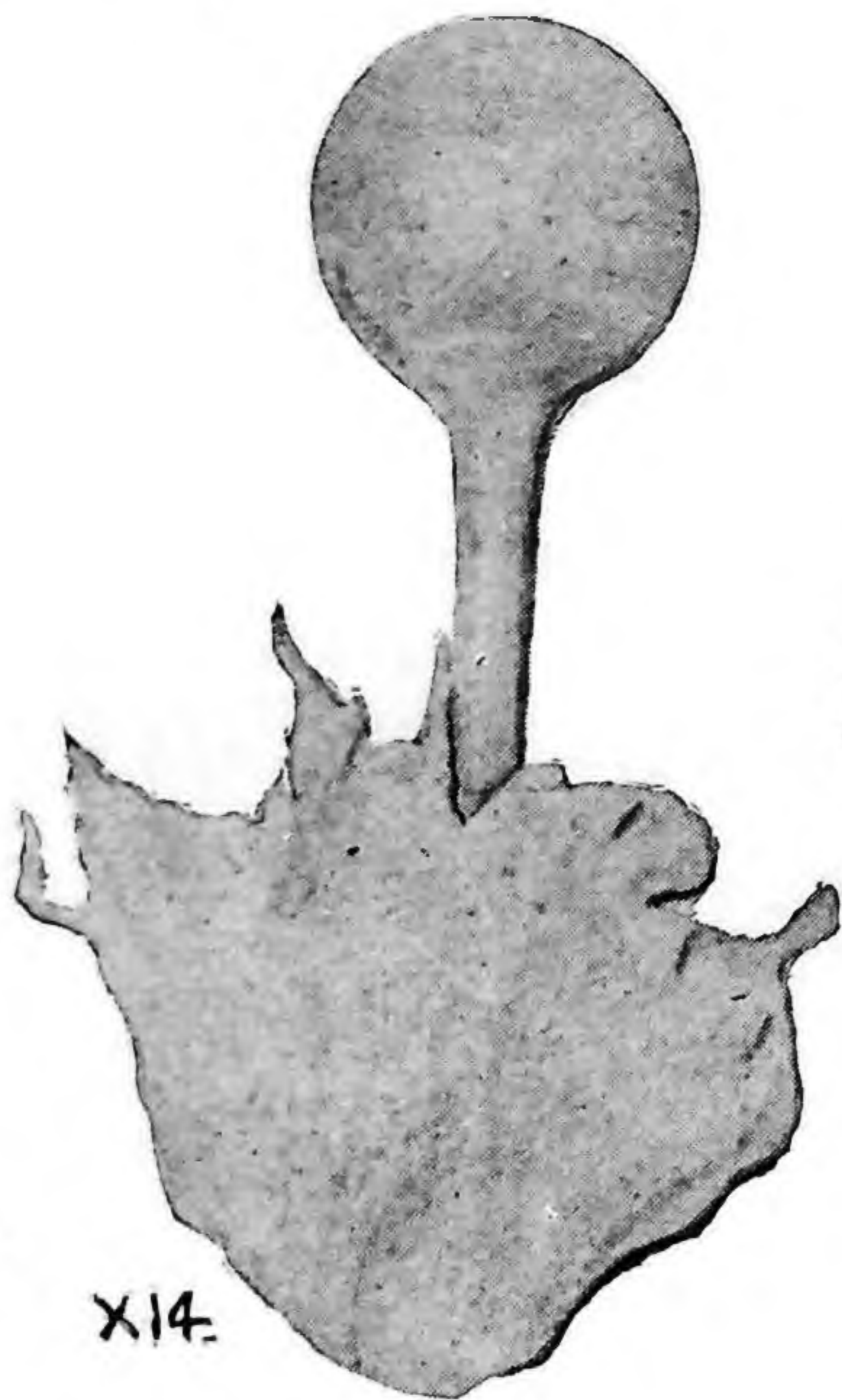
* Read before the Botany Section of the Indian Science Congress Calcutta, January, 1928.



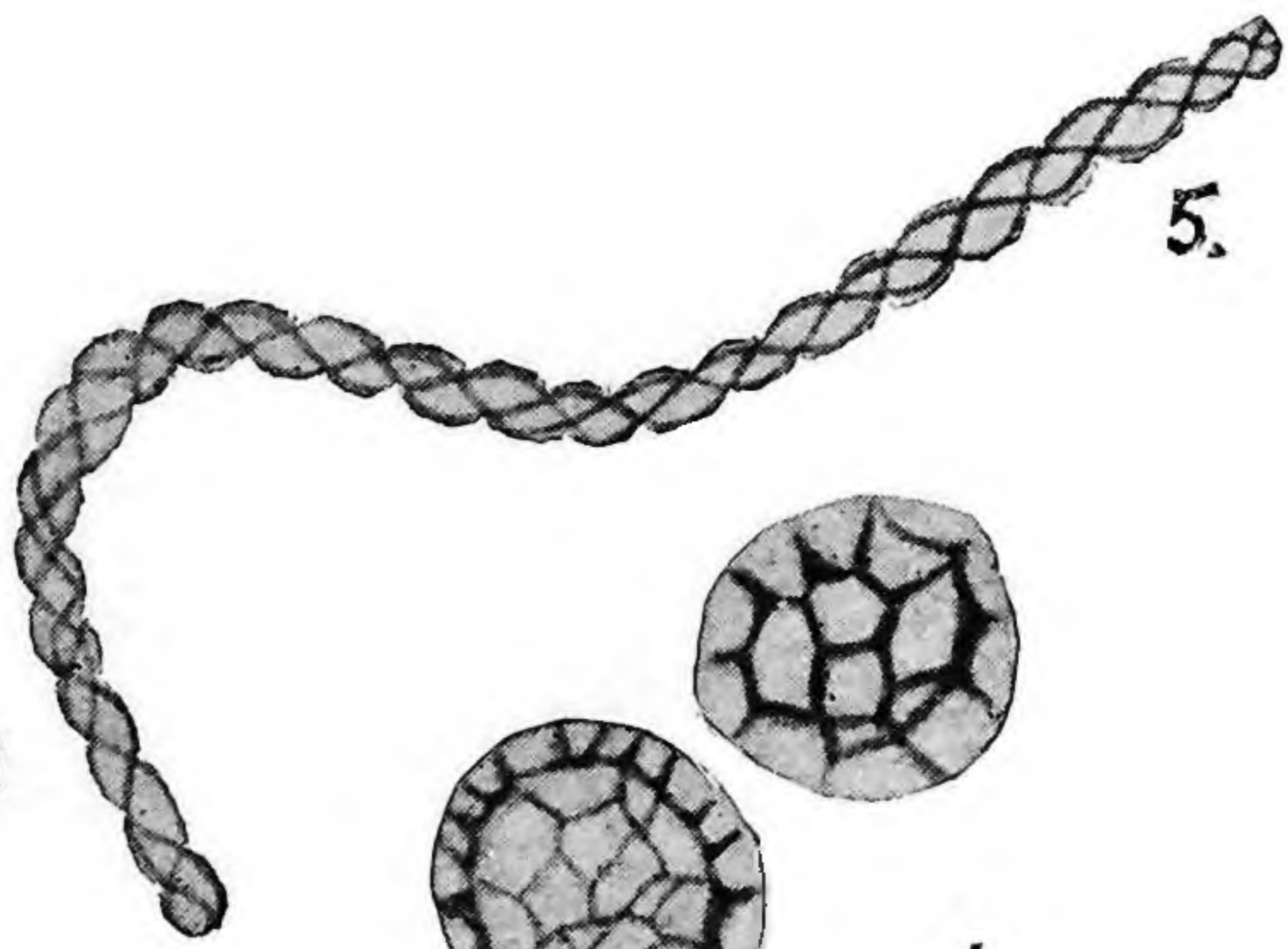
1. X14



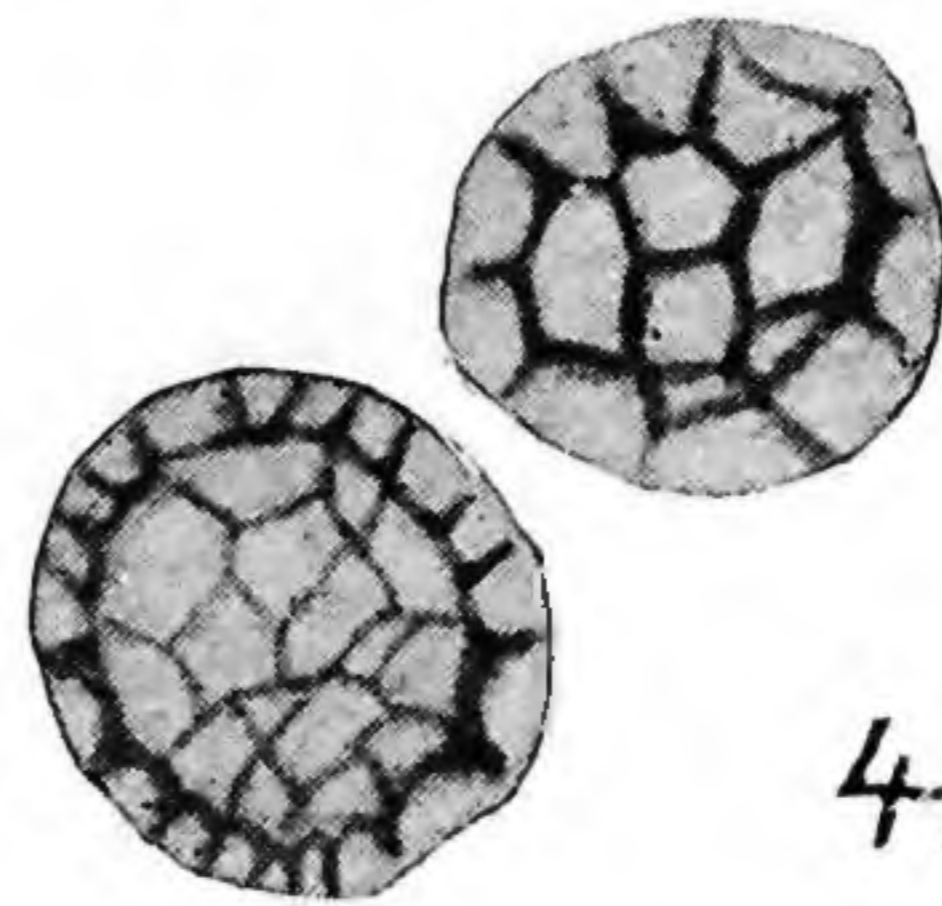
X14. 2.



3. X14



5.



4. X480.

Kashyap: Petalophyllum.