

SPECIMEN PAGE OF STORMONTH'S ENGLISH DICTIONARY.

sphæraphides

spicula

**sphæraphides**, n. plu. *sphairides* [Gr. *sphaira*, a globe; *raphis*, a needle; *raphidēs*, of a needle], in *bot.*, globular clusters of raphides, or globular aggregations of minute crystals, as found in pinnacled plants.

**sphærenchyma**, n. *sphærenchyma* [Gr. *sphaira*, a sphere or globe; *enchyma*, the substance of organs, an infusion—from *en*, in; *chōō*, I pour], in *bot.*, vegetable tissue composed of spherical cells.

**sphærosiderite**, n. *sphærosiderite* [Gr. *sphaira*, a sphere; *sideros*, iron], a term applied to grape-like or kidney-shaped concretions of sparry carbonate of iron.

**sphærolites**, n. plu. *sphærolites* [Gr. *sphaira*, a sphere; *lithos*, a stone], in *geol.*, a cretaceous genus of thick subconical shells, having opercular-looking upper valves; a variety of obsidian or pearl-stone, found in small rounded grains.

**sphagnum**, n. *sphagnum* [Gr. *sphagnos*, a kind of moss], a kind of moss found in bogs: sphagnous, a. *sphagnous*, mossy; pert. to bog-moss called sphagnum.

**sphalerocarpium**, n. *sphalerocarpium* [Gr. *sphalēros*, unsteady, faithless—from *sphalōō*, I trip up; *karpōs*, fruit], in *bot.*, a small indehiscent, one-seeded fruit, enclosed within a fleshy complex pericarp.

**sphene**, n. *sphene* [F. *sphène*—from Gr. *sphēn*, a wedge], a mineral composed of silica, silicic acid, and lime.

**sphenocephalus**, n. *sphenocephalus* [Gr. *sphēn*, a wedge; *kephalē*, the head], in *anat.*, a malformation of the head by which the upper part of the cranium takes a wedge-like appearance.

**sphenoid**, a. *sphenoidal*, also **sphenoidal**, a. *sphenoidal* [Gr. *sphēn*, a wedge, *sphēnos*, of a wedge; *eidos*, likeness: F. *sphénoïde*], wedge-like, as applied to a bone of the skull, which wedges in and locks together most of the other bones: **sphenoid** is often contracted into **spheno**, *spheno*, and signifies, belonging both to the sphenoid bone and to the part indicated by the other constituent of the compound, as *spheno-maxillary*.

**sphere**, n. *sphere* [F. *sphère*—from L. *sphæra*; Gr. *sphaira*, a ball, a globe: comp. Gael. *speur*, the sky], the vast concave or expanse of the heavens; a globe; a celestial orb; a circle; any round solid body; employment; rank; circuit of action; knowledge or influence: *v.* in *OE.*, to place in a sphere; to form into roundness: **spherical**, a. *spherical*, round; globular; relating to a sphere: **spherically**, ad. *spherically*, **sphericalness**, n. *sphericalness*, also **sphericity**, n. *sphericity*, state or quality of being round; roundness: **sphericle**, n. *sphericle*, also **spherule**, n. *spherule*, a little sphere: **spherics**, n. plu. *spherics*, the doctrine of the properties of the sphere as a geometrical body, in relation to the different circles, lines, angles, &c., which may be described on its surface: **sphery**, a. *sphery*, in *OE.*, spherical; round; belonging to the spheres: **spherical angle**, in *trig.*, an angle formed by the intersection of two great circles on the surface of a sphere or spheroid: **spherical geometry**, that branch of geometry that treats of spherical bodies and their various properties: **spherical trigonometry**, that branch of trigonometry which treats of spherical angles and triangles: **music of the spheres**, in the *anc. astron.*, the music supposed to result from the motions of the spheres.—*Syn.* of 'sphere n.': globe; globule; orb; ball.

**spherograph**, n. *spherograph* [Gr. *sphaira*, a sphere; *graphōō*, I write], an instr. designed for the practical application of spherics to navigation.

**spheroid**, n. *spheroid* [Gr. *sphaira*, a sphere; *eidos*, resemblance], a round body or figure not perfectly spherical; a solid generated by the revolution of an ellipse about one of its axes: **spheroidal**, a. *spheroidal*, ad. *spheroidally*, having the form of a spheroid: **spheroidally**, ad. *spheroidally*, n. *spheroidality*, state or quality of being spheroidal: **oblate spheroid**—see under *oblate* 1.

**spherometer**, n. *spherometer* [Gr. *sphaira*, a sphere; *metron*, a measure], an instr. for measuring with great

precision the thickness of small bodies, the curvature of optical glasses, &c.

**spherosiderite**—see **sphærosiderite**.

**spherulites**—see **sphærolites**.

**sphincter**, n. *sphincter* [Gr. *sphingktēr*, that binds tightly or contracts—from *sphingōō*, I bind tight], in *anat.*, a muscle that contracts or shuts an orifice or opening which it surrounds.

**sphinx**, n. *sphinx* [L. *sphinx*; Gr. *sphinx*, the sphinx, the throttler—from Gr. *sphingōō*, I bind tight], a fabulous monster common to the anc. myth. of the Aryan, Grecian, and Egyptian nations, the so-called Egyptian sphinx being represented as a winged lion with a human head and bust, always in a couchant attitude, the Greek sphinx being represented in any attitude which might suit the fancy of the poet; a fabulous creature located near Thebes that was said to propose riddles to travellers, and tear to pieces those who could not solve them, usually represented as having the winged body of a lion and the face and breast of a young woman; hence, one who talks in enigmas; the generic name of the hawk-moths, so called because the attitude of the caterpillar resembles that of the Egyptian sphinx.

**sphragistics**, n. *sphragistics* [Gr. *sphragistikos*, of or for sealing—from *sphragis*, a seal], the science of seals, their history, peculiarities, and distinctions, in relation to documents.

**sphrigosis**, n. *sphrigosis* [Gr. *sphrigōō*, I am vigorous], in *bet.*, the disease of over-rankness, either constitutional or the effect of abundant nutriment, from which many members of the vegetable kingdom suffer.

**sphygmia**, a. *sphygmia* [Gr. *sphugmos*, the pulse], of or pert. to the pulse: **sphygmograph**, n. *sphygmograph* [Gr. *graphōō*, I describe], a contrivance for indicating the character of the pulse: **sphygmographic**, a. *sphygmographic*, connected with or relating to a sphygmograph: **sphygmometer**, n. *sphygmometer* [Gr. *metron*, a measure], an instrument for rendering visible arterial pulsations, or for counting them; a sphygmograph.

**spial**, n. *spial* [see *spy*], in *OE.*, a spy; a scout.

**spicate**, a. *spicate* [L. *spicatus*, furnished with spikes—from *spica*, an ear of corn, a spike], in *bot.*, having the form of a spike or ear of corn; arranged in a spike.

**spice**, n. *spice* [F. *épices*; It. *spezie*, spices: OE. *espice*, spice—from L. *speciēs*, a kind: in mid. L. *speciēs*, a spice, drug], an aromatic vegetable substance for seasoning food; a thing that imparts pungency or flavour to food; a small quantity giving a flavour to a greater: *v.* to season or flavour with spice; to render agreeable to the palate; to tincture: **spicing**, imp.: **spiced**, pp. *spiced*: **adj.** seasoned with spice; having an agreeable taste or flavour: **spicer**, n. *spicer*, one who deals in spice: **spicery**, n. *spicery*, fragrant and aromatic substances used in seasoning food: **spicy**, a. *spicy*, fragrant; aromatic; smart; racy; showy; piquant; pungent: **spicily**, ad. *spicily*: **spiciness**, n. *spiciness*, the state or quality of being spicy: **spice-nut**, small round pieces of ginger-bread: **spiced**: **spice-wood**, the wild allspice.

**spick and span**, a. *spick and span* [Eng. *spike*, and Icel. *spann*; Ger. *span*, a chip, a splinter], bright as a spike just made, and a chip just split; bright; quite new.

**spicula**, n. *spicula* [L. *spiculum*, a little sharp point, a dart—dim. of *spica*, *spicum*, a spike, an ear of corn], in *bot.*, a little spike; **spicular**, a. *spicular*, resembling a dart or spike; having sharp points: **spiculate**, a. *spiculate*, in *bot.*, covered with fine-pointed appendages; having a spike composed of several smaller spikes: **spicule**, n. *spicule*, a minute slender granule or point: **spiculum**, n. *spiculum*, a spike, n. plu. *spicula*, in *surg.*, a small-pointed piece of bone or other hard matter; in *zool.*, a term applied to minute siliceous or calcareous particles, generally needle-shaped, which are embedded in the tissues of sponges and certain other animals.

*cōō, bōy, fōōt; pūre, būd; chair, game, jog, shun, thing, there, zeal.*