

CRINOIDS. The Crinoids may be simply dried in the sun or by artificial heat, but being fragile are best preserved in alcohol. One can well afford the alcohol for a Crinoid.

OPHIURANS. So abundant are the hard parts in this group that if the internal anatomy be not needed, they may simply be dried, preferably by artificial heat. Better results are obtained by the method described below for Starfishes.

STARFISHES. Some Starfishes will keep their shape when simply dried in the sun, but most of them will expel water and collapse under this treatment. But if their tissues be hardened before the drying this will not happen. This can best be done by taking them very quickly from a glass vessel of water in which they are alive and expanded, and plunging them suddenly into a vessel containing enough alcohol of any grade between forty and sixty per cent to cover them. In this they should be allowed to remain about half an hour, when they should be taken out and dried by artificial heat. This may be best done by placing them some distance above a stove upon a piece of cloth supported by a wooden frame. In this way the form and, to a great extent the color, of Starfishes may be beautifully preserved. Of course the alcohol can be used for this purpose over and over again. There can be substituted for the use of the alcohol in this method, fresh water heated nearly to boiling, in which the specimens are to be plunged for a few seconds only and then dried as above directed.

SEA-URCHINS. These may be treated as recommended for Starfishes, particularly when it is wished to retain the spines. If simply the shell is wanted, the animal should be boiled for a few minutes in a weak solution of caustic potash, when all animal matter can be easily washed away.

HOLOTHURIANS. These can be well preserved only in alcohol.