backbone 1665. 2. The hea
men of a tree 16[illegible] 3. A ridge or
h of ground, ro[illegible], etc., having a
gous to that of the backbone,
g it 1796. 4. The 'back' of a
s.-bill, one or other of two sp
honey-eaters, characterized by the
ills; -bone, the spine; -eel, a spiny
wood of an oak. H
having, provided with, or cove
(b) having a spine

[ad. F. †
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More fully s. ruby. 2.
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b. Any mineral belon
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Spineless (spəi·nlès), a. 1817.
1. Having no spines or sha
not spinous. 2. Having a weak or
spine; deprived of the natural suppo
spine; exhausted, limp 1860. b. Lacking moral
ce or vigour; irresolute, flabby 1885.
2. b. We are sick of this s. way of treating violators
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Spinelle (spine
Spinescent (spəin·sĕn
mod.L. spinescent-, spinesc
f. spina SPINE.] 1. Bot. De
terminating in a spine or thorn
or covered with spines; spiniferous.
Tending to become a spine or spin
spinous, spinulous 1856. H
Spinet[1] (spi·nĕt, spine
1664. [ad. F. †espinette (mod.F.
spinetta, -etto; prob. from the name of the in-
ventor, Giovanni Spinetti of Venice.] A keyed
musical instrument, common in England in the
18th c., closely resembling the harpsichord, but
smaller and having only one string to each note.
†Spi·net[2]. 1603. [ad. L. spinetum (f. spina
thorn).] A thicket; a spinney -1848.
Spi·ne-tail. 1839. [SPINE.] One or other
of several birds of unrelated genera character-
ized by their stiff, spine-like, or mucronate tail-
feathers. So Spi·ne-tailed a. 1802.
Spi·n-house. Now Hist. 1700. [ad. Du.
spinhuis. Cf. SPINNING-HOUSE.] A house or
building in which persons are employed in
spinning; (in ref. to Continental usage) a house
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Spini- (spəi·ni), comb. form of L. spina
spine, as in s.-acute, -dentate, -spirulate adjs.
Spiniferous (spəini·fĕrəs), a. 1656. [f. L.
spinifer, f. spina SPINE] Bearing, covered
with, or having spines; spinose. Chiefly Zool.
or Bot.
‖Spinifex (spei·nifeks). 1846. [mod.L., f.
L. spina SPINE + -fex maker, f. facere.] Bot.
One or other of a number of coarse grasses
(now classed in the genus Tricuspis) which
grow in dense masses on the sand-hills of the
Australian deserts, and are characterized by
their sharp-pointed spiny leaves; esp. the porcu-
pine-grass, Triodia irritans.
Spiniform (spəi·nifōrm), a. 1833. [ad.
mod.L. spiniformis; see SPINE and -FORM.]
Bot. and Zool. Having the form of a spine or
spinous process.
Spinigerous (spəini·dʒĕrəs), a. 1852. [f.
L. spiniger spine-bearing.] Bot. and Zool. =
SPINIFEROUS a.
Spink (spink), sb. Now dial. late ME.
[prob. imitative of the note of the bird.] 1.
One or other of the finches; esp. the chaffinch.
2. Used to imitate or represent the characteristic
note or cry of
Spink v.

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Spinneret (spi·ne
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SPIN
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1511.
attrib., as s.-engine, -facto
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op, =
TOP sb.[2] 1.
Spi·nning, ppl. a. 1634
v. +
-ING[2].] 1. That spins or pro
2.
That revolves, gyrates, or turn
Spi·nning-house. 1463.
vbl.
sb.] 1. A room or building s
the
purpose of spinning. 2. A ho
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for women, esp. at Cambridge
Spi·nning-jenny. 1783.
ING
vbl. sb. or ppl. a. + JENNY.] A
spinning-machine in which sever
set in motion by a band from o
Spi·nning-wheel. late ME
vbl. sb.] A simple apparatus for
merly in common use, in which
of the thread is carried out by
wheel worked either by the hand
Spino- (spəi·no), used as com
spina spine, in a few terms of
Spinode (spəi·nōud). 185
L.
spina SPINE sb. + NODE sb.] Ge
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point on a curve; a cusp.
Spinose (spəinōu·s), a. 16
spinosus, f. spina thorn.] = SPIN
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philosopher Baruch or Benedict de
(1632–77). So F. spinosisme.] The phi-
trines of Spinoza, or the general
underlying these; pantheism as repre
spino
(spi·nōu·zist). 1728. [f. as prec.
spinosiste.] One who accepts
philosophical doctrines of S
inozi·stic, -osistic a. of
characteristic of Spinoza
al vie
Spinst
(spi·nstər). late ME.
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of one unmarried. late ME.
oman; esp. an 'old maid' 1719.
dwelling..dyuers good spynsters
Joan Lambe, widow of London,
myself because the laws of
so 1719. b. In little spinsters
es useful 1882.
dom = nun. Spinstry, the art
product of spinning.
Sp
(spi·nstrès). 1643. [f. SPIN-
ER + -ESS.] 1. A female spinner. 2. A
maiden lady; a spinster 1716.
Spi·n-text. 1693. [f. SPIN v. + TEXT sb.,
orig. as a suggestive surname.] A parson, esp.
one who preaches long or weak sermons.
Spintha·riscope. 1903. [irreg. f. Gr.
σπινθαρίς spark; see -SCOPE.] An instrument
in which the rays emitted from the metal radium
are evidenced by the production of tiny sparks.
Spinule (spəi·niul). 1752. [ad. L. spinula,
dim. of spina SPINE sb.] 1. A small or minute
spine or thorn-like formation, esp. in lower
forms of animal life. 2. A particular kind of
larva 1857. Hence Spinule·scent a. having a
tendency to produce small spines. Spi·nulous
a. = SPINULOSE a.
Spi·nuli-, comb. form of L. spinula spinule,
as in spinuli·ferous, spinu·liform adjs.
Spinulose (spəi·niulōus), a. 1819. [ad.
mod.L. spinulosus, f. spinula SPINULE.] Zool.
and Bot. 1. Furnished or covered with spinules.
2. Having the form of spinules 1848. So Spi-
nulo·so-, comb. form.
Spiny (spəi·ni), a. 1586. [f. SPINE sb. +
-Y[1].] 1. Having the characteristics of a thorn
or thorns. b. Thin and hard or dry; spare,
lean 1598. 2. Abounding in, furnished or
prickly set with, thorns 1604. 3. Furnished or
set with spines 1615. 4. Having the form of a
spine; stiff and sharp-pointed 1828.
1. And so much for this little s. objection COWLEY.
2. The spiney Desarts of Scholastic Philosophy
1727. 3. Two..lizards with remarkable spiney skins
1883. 4. S. developments of the epidermis HUXLEY.
Hence Spi·niness.
Spiracle (spəiə·răk'l). late ME. [ad. L. spi-
raculum SPIRACULUM.] †1. Breath, spirit.
(orig. after L. spiraculum vitæ in Gen. ii. 7, vii. 22)
-1654. 2. A small opening by which a confined
space has communication with the outer air;
esp. an air-hole or air-shaft 1620. b. spec. A
volcanic vent-hole 1671. 3. a. A breathing-pore
in the epidermis of plants; a stoma (rare) 1774.
b. Zool. A special aperture, orifice, or pore,
chiefly in lower forms of animal life, by which
respiration is effected 1775. c. The blow-hole
of a cetacean (and of certain sharks) 1796.
Hence Spira·cular a. of, pertaining to, or serv-
ing as a s. or spiracles.
‖Spiraculum (spəiræ·kiŭlŭm). Pl. -acula.
1668. [L., f. spirare to breathe.] = prec. 2, 2 b,
3 b.
Spiræa (spəirī·ă). Also spirea. 1669. [L.
ad. Gr. σπειραία, app. f. σπεῖρα SPIRE sb.[3]]
Bot. 1. One or other species of an extensive
genus of rosaceous plants or shrubs, many of
which are largely cultivated for their handsome
flowered flowers. b. With a and N. sing.