

THE OPERCULATE MADREPORARIA RUGOSA OF
NEW SOUTH WALES.

By R. ETHERIDGE, Junr.

(Plate xxx.)

THE first mention of an Australian Operculate Rugose Coral, was, I believe, made by the late Rev. W. B. Clarke, F.R.S., in the third edition of his "Sedimentary Formations of New South Wales,"* wherein the discovery of *Calceola* is mentioned in the supposed Devonian rocks of Mount Froome, Co. Phillip. In the fourth edition of the same publication† this locality is again referred to, and *Calceola* is also said to have been found "along the Yass and Murrumbidgee Rivers." The Clarke specimens are not unfortunately, now extant for reference but previous to the destruction of the collection, the late Prof. de Koninck described from Rock-Flat Creek (probably near Cooma) a *Calceola*-like Coral, termed by him *Rhizophyllum interpunctatum*,‡ and it is more than probable that the fossil, formerly referred to by Clarke as *Calceola*, to which it bears a very strong resemblance on a macroscopic examination only, is a species of *Rhizophyllum*. The specimen described very briefly by De Koninck is said to be a semi-cone shaped cast, bearing on the curved surface fine granulated radiating ridges. The flat side is only provided with ridges towards the lower part, and they are smooth, whilst in the middle line is the impression of the well developed large median septum.

In 1880 I described another Operculate Rugose Coral from near Yass, sent to me by Prof. A. Liversidge, F.R.S., and possessing a similar general resemblance to *Calceola*. This I also referred to Lindström's genus *Rhizophyllum* as *R. australe*,§ pointing out, however, that "one of the three specimens is more *Calceola*-like than the other two, which again resemble *Rhizophyllum* to a greater extent."

I am now indebted to Messrs. J. A. Wall and J. Mitchell for an opportunity of examining a much larger series of these corals from Yass and Silverdale, and they have been good enough to

* Mines and Min. Statistics of N. S. Wales (N. S. Wales Intercol. and Philadelphia Internat. Exhib., 8vo., Sydney, 1875—by Authority), 1875, p. 159.

† Remarks on the Sedimentary Formations of New South Wales. Fourth Edition (8vo., Sydney, 1878—by Authority), p. 16.

‡ Foss. Pal. Nouv. Galles du Sud, Pt. 1, 1876, p. 61.

§ Journ. R. Soc. N. S. Wales for 1880 (1881), xiv., p. 248.