

[XII.]

THE ALCYONARIA.

Part II.

By THOMAS WHITELEGGE,
Zoologist, Australian Museum.

The collection of *Gorgonidae* made by Mr. C. Hedley, although small in number, is particularly interesting from the fact that, of the ten species obtained, eight prove to be new.

Included in the collection is a number of noteworthy forms belonging mostly to genera containing but few species.

The species described as new are as follows:—*Keroeides gracilis*, *Acanthogorgia breviflora*, *Arcthomuricea simplex*, *Villogorgia flagellata*, *Bebryce Studeri*, *Muricella purpurea*, *Nicella laxa* and *Verucella flabellata*. Six out of the eight genera above mentioned, have not previously been represented in the Museum collection.

The wealth of the Pacific Ocean in *Gorgonidae*, indicated by the Challenger Report, has been further emphasized by the investigation of the Funafuti fauna.

The result of these studies has been to enlarge genera hitherto only represented by one or two species; thus, another species has each been added to the monotypic genera *Keroeides* and *Nicella*, the former inhabiting the coast of Japan, the latter that of Mauritius. *Arcthomuricea* and *Bebryce* have each been increased by an additional species.

The whole of the specimens with two exceptions (*Plexaura antipathes* and *Heliopora*) were obtained by tangles on the outer reef, at a depth of from 40 to 70 fathoms.

Mr. Edgar R. Waite has again favoured me with the drawings from which the accompanying plates have been reproduced.

The following notes have been supplied by Mr. C. Hedley:—“Dead specimens of the *Heliopora* were abundant, a raised bed of it indicating upheaval is described, *ante* p. 11. Numerous colonies, each extending over many square yards were seen in two or three fathoms depth on the lagoon coast of the main islet, but on procuring pieces by the aid of a native diver, they always proved to be dead, having perhaps been smothered by shifting