

## TWO AUSTRALIAN SPECIES OF *DITRYPA*.

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(Figures 1-2).

In 1877 Brazier<sup>1</sup> placed before the Linnean Society of New South Wales the continuation of his examination of the Mollusca collected during the "Chevert" Expedition, including among these results his description of a new species of *Dentalium*. This species was named by him *Dentalium laeve*, and his description, unaccompanied by a figure reads:

"Shell light amber colour, sometimes white, smooth, glossy, strongly arched, half-moon shaped, basal margin pinched in about two lines long, forming somewhat like a shoulder, then slightly ventricose, from that to the apex regularly tapering, apex with a minute perforation, entire.

Length, 14 lines; diam. of base at shoulder, 1; below,  $\frac{1}{2}$  line."

At the conclusion of his description Brazier remarks that "The lower part of this species resembles the spines of Sea Urchins '*Echinida*.' The greater part of the specimens are encrusted over with a fine coating of coral-like substance."

To the description the following localities are appended: Princess Charlotte Bay, North-East Australia, 13 fms., sandy mud; Cape Grenville, North-East Australia, 20 fms., mud; York Island, Torres Straits, 13 fms., hard mud bottom; Darnley Island, Torres Straits, 5, 15, 20, 30 fms., mud, sand and sandy mud bottom.

These specimens are housed in the Macleay Museum at the University of Sydney, and I am indebted to Mr. John Shewan for his courtesy in placing them at my disposal for examination.

As a *Dentalium* the specific name of *laeve* had been preoccupied by Schlotheim<sup>2</sup> and Turton,<sup>3</sup> and was again used by Hilgard and Hopkins<sup>4</sup> in 1878. In the Manual of Conchology Pilsbry and Sharp refer this form to *Cadulus* ?? *laevis*, Brazier, and make the following remark:—"Described as *Dentalium*, the specific name being preoccupied. It seems to be a *Cadulus* or a *Ditrypa*. We have not seen specimens, but the last clause of Brazier's observations suggest the latter genus."

An examination of the "Chevert" material in the Macleay Museum, and of the material in the Australian Museum (paratypes) shows that *Dentalium laeve* may be definitely removed from the Mollusca to the Annelida; and in considering the geographical distribution of these forms, my conclusions point to the improbability of this being referable to the European *Ditrypa cornea*, and it is therefore regarded as a new species.

<sup>1</sup> Brazier—Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, ii., 1, 1878, p. 59.

<sup>2</sup> Schlotheim—Die Petrifactenkunde, 1820, p. 93 (as *Dentalites laevis*).

<sup>3</sup> Turton—Conch. Dict. Brit. Is., 1819, p. 256.

<sup>4</sup> Hilgard and Hopkins—Rep. Borings Mississippi River and Lake Borgne (Engr. Dept. U.S. Army), 1878, p. 48, pl. iii., fig. 6.