

NOTES ON A COLLECTION OF ECHINODERMS FROM THE
AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM.¹

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(Figure I.)

Through the kindness of Dr. C. Anderson, Director of the Australian Museum, a collection of Echinodermata of more than ordinary interest was sent to me for identification in April, 1925. They were largely collected by Surgeon Lieutenant-Commander W. E. J. Paradise, R.A.N. (late H.M.A.S. "Geranium"), and chiefly on little known portions of the Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, between 17° and 19° S. lat. A few other localities are, however, represented. As several of the species have not hitherto been taken on the coast of Australia, and the records for many others show important extensions of range it seems to me worth while to publish an annotated list of the species contained in the collection. I sincerely thank Dr. Anderson for the opportunity to examine this material and I would add that credit is due Dr. Paradise for the important contribution he has made to our knowledge of the Australian marine fauna. There are in the collection altogether 101 specimens, representing 42 species.

CRINOIDEA.

COMATELLA STELLIGERA (*P. H. Carpenter*).

The occurrence of these specimens on the Queensland coast is of interest because there are no authentic earlier records from south of the Torres Strait region. The present localities are: Off Ellison Reef, Queensland, 5-15 fms. August, 1924, 1 specimen. Dredged in 7 fms. on Surprise Shoal, outer Great Barrier Reef, Q'ld., about 18° S., 1 specimen.

COMATULA PECTINATA var. PURPUREA (*J. Müller*).

I think Gislen (1919, Kungl. Svenska Vet.-Akad. Handl., 59, No. 4, p. 6) is right in his decision that *Comatula purpurea* (*J. Müller*) is only a form or variety of *C. pectinata*, but the three specimens in the present collection throw little light on the question. Two are rather large specimens with the oral arms 125 mm. long; they look like *pectinata*, but have the cirri as in *purpurea*. The third specimen is smaller, quite stout, with all the arms subequal; there are only two cirri and the colour is a bright orange-brown (rust-colour). This colouration has the appearance of being artificial.

Localities.—Off Ellison Reef, outer Great Barrier Reef, Queensland, 5-15 fms., Aug. 1924. 2 fine specimens. Outer Great Barrier Reef, Qld., between 17° and 19° S.; exposed reefs at low tide. 1 rust-coloured specimen.

¹See also paper by F. A. McNeill and A. A. Livingstone on pp. 193-199.