

FRESH-WATER SPONGES FROM AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

By

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I. HISTORICAL NOTES.

Mr. L. P. Capewell, as far as we can discover from available literature, was the first person to collect a fresh-water sponge in Australia. This sponge was collected in Lake Hindmarsh, Victoria. Dr. J. S. Bowerbank in 1863 described¹ this sponge as a new species and illustrated it with a good drawing. The sponge being a new one was named for the finder and was called *Spongilla capewelli*; now that the nomenclature has changed somewhat, this species becomes known as (1) *Ephydatia capewelli* (Bowerbank). Mr. H. J. Carter, writing in 1881,² improved the original description somewhat. Later writers have also mentioned this form, but have added very little to the splendid descriptive notes made by Bowerbank and Carter.

Dr. W. A. Haswell, writing on "Australian Fresh Water Sponges" in 1883,³ describes three new species and thus brings the total number of described species up to four at that date. It is very unfortunate that Dr. Haswell did not follow Dr. Bowerbank's example and leave us good drawings of the forms described. (2) *Spongilla sceptroides* Haswell, and (3) *Spongilla botryoides* Haswell, were both found in a pond near Brisbane, growing on submerged branches and twigs. Dr. Traxler illustrates the gemmule spicules of *S. sceptroides* in his paper⁴ on the subfossil sponges of Australia, and Annandale gives a full description and illustrations of a specimen of this species from Queensland in a later paper.⁵

Mr. E. P. Ramsay had collected in Bell River at Wellington, New South Wales, another sponge which Haswell described and named (4) *Meyenia ramsayi*. This now becomes *Ephydatia ramsayi* (Haswell). Dr. Lendenfeld⁶ has restudied *E. ramsayi* and gives us a fuller description than the original one and also provided illustrations of the form he examined.

Dr. Morris provided a few spicules of another species of *Ephydatia* from the Botany Reservoirs, near Sydney. These were quite different from both *E. capewelli* and *E. ramsayi*, but as Dr. Haswell does not describe this form we shall have to designate it for the present as (5) *Ephydatia* ?.

¹ Bowerbank.—Proceedings Zoological Society of London, November 24, 1863, p. 447, pl. xxxviii.

² Carter.—Annals and Magazine of Natural History, (5), vii, 1881, p. 93.

³ Haswell.—Proceedings Linnean Society of N.S.W., vii, 1883, pp. 208-210.

⁴ Traxler.—Földtani Közlöny, xxvi, 1896, pp. 95-97, pl. iii.

⁵ Annandale.—Proceedings U.S. National Museum, xxxvi, 1909, pp. 627-632.

⁶ Lendenfeld.—Zool. Jahrb., ii, 1887, p. 91, pl. vi.