

A CATALOGUE OF ECHINODERM TYPE-SPECIMENS IN THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, SYDNEY

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SUMMARY

Over 1000 type-specimens representing 253 nominal species of echinoderms from all five classes are listed. The majority of species have been described by H. L. Clark (1909, 1916, 1938) and are from Australian waters. However, 61 species are from Antarctic waters, these having been described by Koehler (1920-1926). Two species of asteroid, *Ophidiaster propinquus* Livingstone and *O. watsoni* Livingstone are considered to be synonyms of *Linckia laevigata* (Linnaeus) and *Gomophia aegyptiaca* Gray, respectively. The ophiuroid subspecies *Ophiothrix stelligera atra* H.L. Clark, as represented by two paratypes in the present collection, is considered a synonym of *O. ciliaris rugosa* Koehler. *Ophiocoma alternans* Endean, a homonym, is given a new name.

INTRODUCTION

Late in 1971 D.L.P. compiled, in draft form, a catalogue of the type-specimens housed in The Australian Museum. Later (1974) the draft was handed over to F.W.E.R. for up-dating and completion. It was not until this time that the significance of a collection of echinoderms from Antarctic waters collected during the Australasian Antarctic Expedition (1911-1914), named by Koehler (1920, 1922 and 1926) and A. H. Clark (1937) and donated to the Museum in 1921 and 1931 respectively, was realised and the species added to this catalogue.

The echinoderm type-collection presently comprises about 1007 specimens, representing 253 nominal species. Of the species represented, 171 were collected around the coast of Australia or Lord Howe Island, 61 were collected in the Antarctic region and 21 were collected from various other Pacific localities. However, the collections include types of only about 17% of the known Australian fauna. This seemingly low figure reflects the fact that many of the Australian species are common to wide areas of the Indo-Pacific, and type-material of most of these species have a different area of origin.

It is unfortunate that about 170 Antarctic specimens were destroyed in July, 1939. A covering note in the Museum's Accessions Register at the time states that the "glass cell Records of The Australian Museum, 1977, **30**, 337-364.