

REMAINS OF TWO SPECIES OF CAPROMYS FROM ANCIENT BURIAL SITES IN JAMAICA.

While the indigenous Antillean rodents of the genus *Capromys* are represented by several species in Cuba, only one, *C. brownii* Fischer, has hitherto been found in Jamaica. Two distinct members of the genus are each represented by a toothless mandible and two femurs taken from ancient burial sites near Salt River, Jamaica, by R. C. McCormack and now in the U. S. National Museum. One of these is identical with the known living Jamaican species. The other, differing from *Capromys brownii* in conspicuously smaller size (greatest length of femur without epiphysis about 56 mm. instead of about 68 mm., lower toothrow 16.4 instead of 19.4) and in the obviously reduced condition of the third lower molar, I am unable to distinguish from *C. thoracatus* (True) of Little Swan Island. Whether or not this apparent identity is due merely to the incompleteness of the individuals represented by the Jamaican specimens, and what such identity might mean should it ever be proved to exist, are questions that can not now be answered; but in any event the discovery of these smaller bones in Jamaica is an interesting fact.

—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

THE FIRST NEW ZEALAND CRINOID.

Prof. William B. Benham, of the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand, has been so kind as to submit to me for determination the first crinoid ever discovered in New Zealand waters.

It was collected by Mr. Percy Seymour from a row-boat in about 15-20 feet of water at Preservation Inlet on the west coast of the South (or Middle) Island. Three specimens in all were secured.

Of the fauna of Preservation Inlet Professor Benham writes: "From the same locality some Hydrocorallines and Antipatharians were obtained, and a Pennatulid, all of which are 'Australian' in their affinities. The fauna of the west coast of New Zealand is little known, but it differs considerably from that of the east, south, or north coasts of the island. The west coast is difficult to get at and is only sparsely inhabited, and few of us naturalists have been able to collect there except very superficially and sporadically, as boats only visit Preservation Inlet very irregularly, and once there one never knows how long one might be compelled to stay, as there is no road across the forest clad mountains."

It is interesting to note that this crinoid belongs to a species characteristic of, and confined to, southern and southeastern Australia and Tasmania, *Comanthus (Cenolia) trichoptera* (J. Müller).*

The twenty-eight arms of the specimen sent by Professor Benham are 115 mm. long; the centrodorsal is large, thick-discoidal, the dorsal pole broad and flat, with the centre depressed; the cirri are XL-L, 24-27 (usually 26-27), 22 mm. to 25 mm. long.

The relatively long cirri, which are composed of more numerous segments than the cirri of the typical form, would appear to indicate that this specimen represents a recognizable variety, probably peculiar to New Zealand, for which I propose the name *Comanthus trichoptera benhami*. The type specimen is the property of the University of Otago.

—Austin H. Clark.

* See "Recent Crinoids of Australia," Sydney, 1911, p. 755.