

## A NEW OPHIURAN FROM THE WEST INDIES.

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Among the ophiurans sent to me from the U. S. National Museum were two small specimens from the West Indies, collected by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries steamer *Albatross* in 1887, which proved to belong to the curious genus *Ophiotholia*. As they represent a hitherto unknown species, figures and a description are given herewith.

### OPHIOTHOLIA MITREPHORA, new species.<sup>a</sup>

Disk (in the contracted condition) 4 mm. in diameter, 7 mm. high; arms about 15 mm. long, probably. Disk covered by numerous minute scales, and scattered here and there on the surface are a few short, cylindrical spinelets. Radial shields apparently wanting. (Fig. 1.) Upper arm plates small, triangular, widely separated. (Fig. 2.) Interbrachial spaces scaled like the disk. Genital slits moderate. Oral shields, adoral plates and oral plates concealed by spatulate or fan-shaped papillæ; of these the most distal are smallest, while the largest are next to them, and those near the apex of the jaw are intermediate; oral papillæ like those on the jaw surface but somewhat more pointed. Under arm plates small, somewhat pentagonal, but distinctly longer than broad, widely separated. Side arm plates large, meeting broadly below and above; each plate carries five arm spines, of which the uppermost is the longest and nearly equals the joint; in addition to ordinary arm spines, each plate beyond the ninth carries,

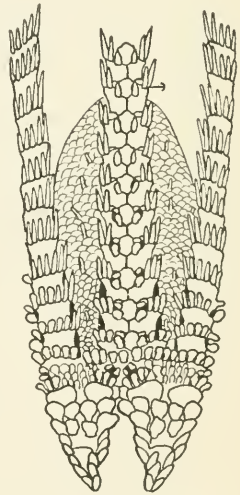


FIG. 1.—SIDE VIEW OF OPHIOTHOLIA MITREPHORA, SHOWING THE MITRE-SHAPED DISK, THE UPRaised ARMS, AND THE NUMEROUS ORAL PAPILLÆ.  $\times 5$ .

<sup>a</sup> From *μτρηφόρος*, signifying wearing a mitre, in reference to the peculiar mitre-like appearance of the disk (fig. 1).

proximal to them, a cluster of the peculiar umbrella-shaped spines, characteristic of the genus. Tentacle scales, two at each basal pore, one proximal and one distal, broadly spatulate; beyond the fifth or sixth pore only the proximal scale is present, and it becomes longer and more pointed. Color (dried from alcohol) dull yellowish.

*Locality*.—Albatross station 2750, east of the Danish West Indies; lat.  $18^{\circ} 30' 00''$  N.; long.  $63^{\circ} 31' 00''$  W.; 496 fathoms; temperature,  $44.5^{\circ}$  F.; fine gray sand: 2 specimens.

*Type*.—Cat. No. 25829, U.S.N.M., from station 2750.

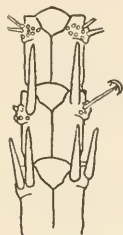


FIG. 2.—UPPER SURFACE OF THE NINTH, TENTH AND ELEVENTH ARM-JOINTS OF OPHIOTHOLIA MITREPHORA, SHOWING THE SMALL UPPER ARM-PLATES AND THE ARM-SPINES.  $\times 10$ .

It is a matter of some interest that this genus, hitherto known only from the Pacific Ocean, should be found in the Caribbean Sea. The Caribbean species resembles *multispina* Kœhler, in the larger number of arm spines and in the form and arrangement of the tentacle scales, more than it does *supplicans* Lyman. But it is easily distinguished from either of those species by the shape of the arm plates.

Only a single unbroken umbrella spine was found, but the minute points of attachment, from which they had been knocked off, are evident on the side arm plates. It is obvious that in the living animal these little "umbrellas" are very numerous, and it would be most interesting to know whether they have any particular function, and if so, what it is.