

A NEW AUSTRALIAN CRINOID.

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In the summer of 1887-88 Mr. J. Bracebridge Wilson dredged a number of comatulids in the outer part of the harbor of Port Philip, near Melbourne, Victoria, and outside the Heads, which, on behalf of the Port Philip Biological Survey Committee, were forwarded to the late Dr. P. H. Carpenter for identification. Among them were five specimens which were referred to by Carpenter as "*A. sp. nov.* (prob.)," and he says further on that this form "I believe to be a new species; but it may turn out to be only a strongly marked variety of *A. pumila*." Doctor Carpenter intended to draw up a diagnosis of this crinoid, but he was never able to do it, and no further reference to it appears in the literature.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of the trustees of the Australian museum at Sydney, New South Wales, and to the curator, Mr. Robert Etheridge, jr., I have recently been enabled to examine the entire magnificent collection of Australian crinoids belonging to that institution. Among the specimens are nearly eight hundred examples of *Compsometra loveni* from various localities and, with them, several of a species which, though allied to it, is quite distinct and shows no evidences of intergradation. This form I take to be the "*Antedon sp. nov.*" referred to by Doctor Carpenter. It may be described as follows:

COMPSOMETRA LACERTOSA, new species.

Antedon sp. nov., P. H. CARPENTER, Proc. Roy. Soc., Victoria, vol. 1, new ser., 1889, p. 135 (Port Philip).

Centrodorsal thin, discoidal, with a broad flat polar area; cirrus sockets in two closely crowded marginal rows.

Cirri XXXIV-XXXVI, 9-12 (usually 10), 7 mm. long, in general resembling those of *Antedon petasus*.

Radials even with the edge of the centrodorsal; IBr_1 very short, slightly trapezoidal, about four times as broad as long; IBr_2 almost triangular, with the apex produced, about as long as broad. The

IBr series extend out horizontally from the radials so that the arms lie quite flat as in certain comasterids, particularly in the genus *Comatula*.

Ten arms 60 to 65 mm. long, rather stout in the proximal third, but becoming exceedingly slender distally. The distal intersyzygial interval is three oblique muscular articulations.

P_1 11 mm. long, slender and flagellate, with thirty to thirty-two segments, the first short, the next three or four about as long as broad, the following rapidly becoming elongated, and after three or four more about twice as long as broad, or slightly longer; the second and three following segments have the distal outer edges strongly produced, overlapping, and serrate, but this feature dies away as the segments become longer, so that most of them are smooth; the elongated segments have slightly expanded ends. P_2 5 mm. long, slightly less stout basally than P_1 , with sixteen to twenty segments, of which the second, third, and fourth have their distal outer edges strongly produced; P_3 about 5 mm. long, resembling P_2 , but with a stronger production of the distal outer edges of the basal segments, and with this character persistent nearly to the tip of the pinnule, and bearing a large rounded genital gland extending from the third to the twelfth segment. The following pinnules are similar to P_3 , but very slightly longer with slightly larger genital glands; after P_{10} the genital glands gradually decrease in size, disappearing on P_{16} . Distal pinnules exceedingly slender, about 4 mm. long.

Type.—In the collection of the Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales.

Cotype.—Cat. No. 24324 U.S.N.M. Both specimens are from Port Jackson, New South Wales.