

fourth, fifth and sixth in orbit, last three longer than high; temporals 1—2. Ten inferior labials, postgenials longer than pregenials.

Total length 23.5 in.; to vent 17 in.; to rictus oris 7 lin.; to orbit 1.5 lin. Gastrosteges 197, urosteges 105.

Yellowish-brown above, gastro- and urosteges rich yellow. Top of head brown, lips paler, the upper edges of the plates light, continuing into a streak to belly.

From the Seychelle Islands; found by U. S. consul Pike. Mus. Acad. Nat. Sciences.

Notes on some points in the Structure and Habits of the Palæozoic CRINOIDEA.

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Through the kindness of Mr. Charles Wachsmuth, of Burlington, Iowa, we have recently had an opportunity to examine some unique and exceedingly interesting specimens of Carboniferous Crinoids, showing parts of the structure of these animals, in some instances, never before observed, so far as we are at this time informed. In a few instances, these specimens show internal organs entirely free from the matrix, and although like all the other solid parts of these curious creatures, composed of numerous calcareous pieces, really surpassing in delicacy of structure the finest lace-work, and so frail that a touch, or even a breath, might almost destroy them.* Some of these specimens we propose to notice here, but, before proceeding to do so, we avail ourselves of this opportunity to express our thanks to Mr. Wachsmuth for the zeal, industry, skill and intelligence he has brought to bear, in collecting and preparing for study, such an unrivaled series of the beautiful fossil Crinoidea of this wonderfully rich locality. Some idea of the extent of his collection of these precious relics may be formed, when we state that of the single family *Actinocrinidæ* alone, after making due allowance for probable synonyms, he must have specimens of near 150 species, or perhaps more, and many of them showing the body, arms and column.

It is also due to Mr. Wachsmuth, that we should state here that he is not a mere collector only, but that he understands what he collects, and knows just what to collect, as well as how to collect.

Below we give substantially some notes of observations made in his collection, followed by some remarks on other specimens at Springfield:

1. *Synbathocrinus*, Phillips. Some of Mr. Wachsmuth's specimens of a species of this genus show that it is provided with a long, slender, pipe-stem like ventral tube, or proboscis, apparently equaling the arms in length. Also, that a double row of minute alternating marginal pieces extends up within the ambulacral furrows of the arms, apparently all their length. We are not aware that these characters have been hitherto noticed in any of the publications on this genus. It will be seen, however, farther on, that minute marginal pieces probably occupied the furrows along the inner side of the arms of other types of Crinoidea, as well as this.

2. *Foniasteroidocrinus*, Lyon and Casseday. Some unusually fine specimens of the typical species of this genus (*G. tuberosus*) in Mr. Wachsmuth's collection, from Crawfordsville, Ind., show the slender pendent arms much more distinctly than any we had before seen, and from these it seems evident that these arms are stouter than we had supposed, and that there are not more than five or six of them to each of the ten openings. In the specimen figured by us on page 220 of the second volume of the Illinois Reports, these arms were only imperfectly seen by working away, with great difficulty, the hard matrix be-

* By Mr. Wachsmuth's permission, we have prepared for future publication, drawings of all of these instructive specimens.

tween two of the produced rays of the vault, which we have termed pseudo-brachial appendages, or false arms. In clearing away the matrix of this specimen, we had cut just far enough to expose the edges of the arms on each side of the deep ambulacral furrow, so that each of these edges presents the appearance of being a separate and distinct, very slender arm, composed of a single series of pieces, and without any ambulacral furrow on the outer or ventral side; whereas there is a well-defined ambulacral furrow, bearing the tentacula along its margins, on the outer side of the arms, and when the matrix is removed from these ambulacral furrows, the arms can be seen to be composed each of a double series of small alternately-arranged pieces. It is barely possible that in specimens of this species with the arms *perfectly preserved*, that the ambulacral furrows may be covered on the outer or ventral side by a double series of alternating pieces, and that the tentacula* may connect with little openings along each side, though there certainly *appear* to be only open furrows in the specimens examined.

It is worthy of note, in this connection, that there certainly are species, agreeing exactly in all other known characters with this genus, that have no open furrow along the outer or ventral side of the arms, which are distinctly seen to be round on the outer side, and show there a double series of interlocking pieces along their entire length, while the tentacula connect along the inner, or under side, as the arms are seen hanging down. This is clearly seen to be the case in a beautiful specimen of *G. typus* (= *Trematoerimus typus*, Hall) in Mr. Wachsmuth's collection, and we can scarcely doubt that in this species there is an open furrow on the inner (under) or dorsal side of the arms. If not, the arms must be tubular, in consequence of having the ambulacral canal closed all around, excepting at the points where the tentacula connect along each side.

3. *Cyathocrinus*, Miller. Specimens of this genus showing the vault (more properly the ventral disc) have very rarely been seen. In England a few examples have been found, and these have been supposed to show two openings, one central and another lateral; the latter, according to Prof. Philipps' and Mr. Austin's figures, being provided with a slender marginal tube, or so-called proboscis. Some of Mr. Wachsmuth's specimens, however, of *C. malvaceus* and *C. Iowensis*, Hall, showing the vault, have led us to doubt the existence of a central opening in the vault of this genus, when the specimens have this part entire. The specimen of *C. malvaceus* shows the remains of the usual narrow lateral proboscis, and also has an opening in the middle of the vault, but from the appearance of this opening, as well as from the structure of the vault of a specimen of *C. Iowensis*, in which this opening is closed, we can scarcely doubt that it was also closed in the specimen of *C. malvaceus*, when entire. The remaining parts of the vault of the *C. malvaceus* mentioned consist of only five comparatively large pieces, alternating with the upper inner edges of the first radial pieces,—the one on the anal side being larger than the others, and forming the base of the inner side of the proboscis. These five pieces connect with each other laterally, and extend inward some distance, but not so far as to meet at the centre, where there is a subsemicircular opening, nearly as large as that in the remaining base of the proboscis. Along each of the sutures between the five vault pieces mentioned, a comparatively large furrow extends inward from each arm-base to the central opening. These we regard as continuations of the ambulacral furrows from the arms, though there is also a minute opening at each arm base, passing directly downward into the cavity of the body, which was probably for the passage of the arm-muscles.

Looking at this specimen alone, one would naturally suppose there must

* We use the term tentacula here in the sense it is generally used by paleontologists, with reference to the delicate pinnule along the arms of Crinoids, and of course not as applying to the minute fleshy organs along the ambulacral furrows, usually termed tentacles by those who have investigated the recent Crinoids.

have been, during the life of the animal, two distinct openings in the vault, as appears to be the case in the specimen of *C. planus*, Miller, figured by Prof. Phillips and Mr. Austin. But on examining the specimen of *C. Iowensis* mentioned above, we find that it shows the base of the small lateral proboscis, with the five principal vault-pieces alternating with the first radials (the one on the anal side being larger than the others), and the same ambulacral furrows extending inwards from the arm-bases, all exactly as in the *C. malvaceus*. But here we find the central opening undoubtedly closed by several vault pieces, while the ambulacral furrows, extending inward from the arm-bases, pass in under these central pieces, and are themselves occupied, or covered, by a double series of alternating, very minute pieces, which probably also extend on, all the way up the ambulacral furrows of the arms as marginal pieces.

From our examinations of these two specimens, which are the only examples of the genus we have seen, showing the vault pieces, and seem to be typical forms of the genus in all other respects, we are strongly inclined to think the specimen of *C. planus*, figured by Prof. Phillips and Mr. Austin, has had these central vault pieces removed by some accident. The fact that these pieces in the specimen examined by us, in Mr. Wachsmuth's collection, seem not to be deeply implanted between the five larger surrounding pieces mentioned, but rather rest, as it were, partly upon the narrow bevelled points of the inner ends of the latter, between the ambulacral furrows, so as to allow room for these furrows to pass under, would render them less firm, and more liable to be removed by any accident, and may possibly account for their absence in the English specimen mentioned.

In regard to the pieces covering the central part of the vault, and which, from the way they are arranged for the ambulacral furrows to pass under them, were apparently more liable to be removed than the others, we would remark that they do not present the prominent appearance, and uniformity of size and form, of the movable pieces composing what is often called the ovarian pyramid in the Cystids, but certainly have all the appearances of true fixed vault pieces, and scarcely project above the others surrounding them. Consequently we cannot believe it at all probable that this genus had a central mouth, opening directly through the vault; though its ambulacral canals evidently converged from the arm-bases to the middle of the vault, partly above the outer vault pieces, and under those composing the middle of the vault. That these furrows terminated at the entrance of the alimentary canal, under the middle of the vault, as those of *Comatula* converge to the mouth, in the same central position, is highly probable; and, as will be seen further on, we are much inclined to believe that the minute organisms upon which we are led, from analogy, to think these animals subsisted, were conveyed to the entrance of the alimentary canal along the ambulacral furrows, without the agency of any proper mouth, opening directly through the vault. Hence we think it probable that the small tube, usually called the proboscis, situated near the posterior side of the ventral disc, rather corresponds to the tubular anal opening similarly situated in *Comatula Mediterranea*.

From our description of the vault of these species, it will be seen to present considerable similarity to that of *Crotalocrinus rugosus*, excepting that in that genus, owing to its great number of arms, the ambulacral furrows, or canals, bifurcate several times between the middle of the vault and the arm-bases, while in *Crotalocrinus* there is no lateral proboscis, nor, apparently, even any visible opening, judging by the figures we have seen, though we suspect it may have a small opening at the periphery of the ventral disc, on the posterior or anal side. In the group of depressed *Platycrini* for which Troost proposed the name *Cupellecrinus* we observe a somewhat similar vault, at least in some of the species; also in *Cococrinus*. In such forms there would seem to be, as it were, an intermediate gradation between the modern Crinoids and the prevailing Palaeozoic types, as has been pointed out by Mr. Billings.

4. *Convolutd support of the digestive sack, in the Actinocrinidæ.* The presence
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of a large convoluted body, resembling in form the shell of a *Bulla* or *Scaphander*, within the body of several types of the *Actinocrinidae*, was noticed by Prof. Hall in vol. xli, p. 261 of the *Am. Journ. Sci.*, in 1866, though he made no suggestions there in regard to the functions it probably performed in the internal economy of these animals. In the second volume of the Illinois Geological Reports, published soon after, we figured, on page 191, a specimen of *Stroto-crinus*, with this body seen in place, and stated that we regarded it as having been connected with the digestive apparatus of the animal.

Both in Prof. Hall's and our own remarks, this organ was spoken of as a convoluted *plate*. This, however, we now know is not strictly correct, for although composed of hard calcareous matter, and in some species somewhat dense in structure, it seems to be always constructed of a great number of minute pieces, and generally has a more or less open or porous texture; while in some cases it presents the appearance of an exceedingly delicate net-work. It seems never to be attached to the bottom of the visceral cavity, though it extends down nearly to the bottom. It is open at both ends (the opening at the lower end being generally smaller than the other), and is placed with its longer axis nearly so as to coincide with that of the body of the Crinoid. In some species it is more or less dilated at the upper end, while in others it is contracted at both ends, so as to present, as above stated, the form of the shell of a *Bulla*. It has apparently no columella, but is more or less loosely convoluted, with a spiral ridge descending the interior, and sometimes another ascending the exterior. Its walls are generally of moderate thickness, but they often appear to be thicker than natural, in consequence of the presence of inorganic incrustations, of calcareous or silicious matter, which also disguise its real structure.

In *Actinocrinus Verneuilianus*, Shumard, this body is narrow below, and sub-cylindrical above to the top, which is slightly dilated. The small opening at the lower end has a thickened rim, which passes around spirally, so as to ascend the outside, as a rather stout ridge, all the way to the top, making nearly two turns, and apparently also forming a rim partly around the top. The surface of the whole organ, as well as of its external spiral ridge, has the usual rough appearance, and when fragments of it are held up, so as to be examined by transmitted light, through a good pocket-glass, it is seen to be composed of a great number of very minute polygonal pieces, varying somewhat in form and size. When these pieces are examined under a magnifier, by reflected light, they show shining facets, like crystals, though they are evidently not surface incrustations, but actually compose the walls, or substance of the organ itself. No pores or meshes were observed passing through the walls of this organ in this species, in which it appears to be more than usually dense.

In another specimen in Mr. Wachsmuth's collection, apparently of *Actinocrinus proboscidioides*, this organ, as seen with one or more of the outer turns removed, has an oval or subelliptic form, being contracted and twisted at both ends, so as to present very nearly the appearance of the shell of some species of *Ovulum*. Its walls are quite thin, and seem to form more convolutions than in any other species in which we have had an opportunity to examine it. As seen by the aid of a magnifier by transmitted light, it presents a very beautiful appearance, being composed of a great number of minute pieces, with numerous openings passing through between them. The little pieces and the openings between them, are of nearly uniform size, and arranged so that there are usually one or two of the former intervening between any two of the openings.

Another of Mr. Wachsmuth's specimens of *Actinocrinus securus*, Hall, has one side of the body removed so as to show about two thirds of the convoluted organ, the upper part of which is broken away. The part remaining has a short wide subcylindrical form, with a rather broad, obliquely truncated lower end, which is not tapering, as in the other species. Under a magnifier it is seen to be composed of an extremely fine net-work, far surpassing, indeed, in delicacy

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of structure, the finest laces that it is perhaps within the power of human skill to fabricate; and as it is entirely free from any surrounding matrix, excepting at one side below, the specimen has to be handled with great care, as a mere touch of this delicate part would probably cause it to fall into hundreds of minute fragments. On examining it under a magnifier, the little bars of which it is composed are seen not to intersect each other at any uniform angle, but anastomose, so as to impart a kind of irregular regularity, if we may so speak, to the form and size of the meshes. Of these little bars there are two sizes, the larger forming the larger meshes, while within the latter a smaller set of processes extend partly or entirely across, so as to form more minute meshes; the whole presenting a beautiful appearance, of which it would be difficult to convey a correct idea by a mere description alone, without the aid of figures.

From analogy, judging from what is known of the internal structure of the recent genus *Comatula*, in which several authors have noticed a reticulated calcareous structure secreted within the tissue of the softer parts of its alimentary canal, we may infer that this convoluted organ was, as it were, a kind of frame work, secreted for the support of the digestive sack, which was probably more or less convoluted in the same way in many, if not all of the Palæozoic Crinoids, though not apparently, in all cases, endowed with the power of secreting a sufficient dense structure of this kind to leave traces of its existence in a fossil state.

So far as we are at this time informed, this organ has yet been very rarely observed in any other family than the *Actinocrinidæ*, though it was probably more or less developed in various other groups. In one instance Mr. Wachsmuth found it in a *Platycrinus*, but here it seems to be, in the specimen found, merely a spongy mass, not showing very clearly the convoluted structure. Some traces of what was supposed to be something of this kind were also observed by him in one of the Blastoids.

5. *Ambulacral canals passing under the vault in the Actinocrinidæ.* In the third and fourth Decades of descriptions and illustrations of the Canadian Organic Remains, Mr. Billings, the able palæontologist of the Geological Survey of the Canadian provinces, gives some highly interesting and instructive remarks on the ambulacral and other openings of the Palæozoic Crinoids. In these remarks he noticed, at length, some striking differences between the vault, or ventral disc, of these older types, and that of the few living examples of this extensive order of animals. That is, he noticed the facts, that while in the living *Comatula* and *Pentacrinus*, the ambulacral canals are seen extending from the arm-bases across the surface of the soft skin-like ventral disc, to the central mouth, and these genera are provided with a separate anal opening, situated excentrically between the mouth and the posterior side, that in the palæozoic Crinoids the ventral disc is very generally, if not always, covered by close-fitting, solid plates, showing no external traces whatever of ambulacral furrows extending inward from the arm-bases; and that in nearly all cases they are merely provided with a single excentric, or subcentral opening, often produced into a long tube which, like the vault, is made up of solid plates. He showed that there is no evidence whatever that the ambulacral canals, in these older types, were continued along the surface of the vault from the arm-bases to the only opening, whether subcentrally or laterally situated, and that in cases where this opening is produced in the form of a greatly elongated proboscis, or tube, such an arrangement of the ambulacra would be almost a physical impossibility. Hence he concluded that the ambulacral canals must have passed directly through the walls of the body at the arm-bases; and he gave several figures of various types, showing openings at the base of the arms, through which he maintained that the ambulacra must have passed to the interior of the body from the arms.

Although these arm-openings had long been well known to all familiar with our numerous types of western Carboniferous Crinoids, in which they are very 1868.]

conspicuous, and we had never entertained any other opinion in regard to them, than that they are the only passages of communication that could have existed between the softer parts occupying the ambulacral furrows of the arms, and the interior of the body, Mr. Billings was the first author, so far as we are at this time aware, who called especial attention to them in this regard. We regret that we have not space to quote a portion, at least, of his remarks on this subject, and would advise the student to read attentively the whole of both of his articles alluded to.

The specimens at Mr. Billings's command enabled him to trace the courses of the ambulacral canals from the arms, through the walls of the body at the arm-bases, and to ascertain the additional fact that, after passing through the walls, they seemed to have turned upward; but beyond this he had not the means of tracing them farther.

A single specimen of *Actinocrinus proboscidualis*, however, in Mr. Wachsmuth's collection, is in a condition (thanks to the great skill of that gentleman, and the exceedingly fortunate state of preservation, by which its delicate internal parts remain almost entire, and without any surrounding matrix) to throw much additional light on this subject. By very dextrous manipulation, Mr. Wachsmuth succeeded in removing about half of its vault, so as to expose the internal parts, in place, and in an excellent state of preservation. The convoluted organ already described in other species is in this comparatively large, subcylindrical in the middle, apparently tapering at the lower end, and a little dilated at the upper extremity. It seems to be rather dense, and shows the usual rough appearance, but as we had no opportunity to examine any detached fragments of it by transmitted light, we did not determine whether or not it has pores passing through it, though it probably has, at least when entirely free from any inorganic incrustation. Its slightly dilated upper end seems to stand with its middle almost, but apparently not exactly, under the middle of the nearly central proboscis of the vault; while at the anterior side of its upper margin, and a little out from under the proboscis, it shows remains of a kind of thickened collar, which we found to be composed of minute calcareous pieces. From this there radiate five ambulacra, composed of the same kind of minute pieces as the collar itself, each ambulacrum consisting of two rows of these minute pieces alternately arranged. They are each also provided with a distinct furrow along their entire length above. As they radiate and descend from their connection with the top of the convoluted framework of the digestive sack, they all bifurcate, so as to send a branch to each arm-opening, those passing to the posterior rays curving a little at first above, so as not to pass directly under the proboscis. These ambulacra, although passing along obscure furrows in the under side of the vault, which are deepest near the arm-openings, are not *in contact* with the vault, or visibly connected with any other parts than the top of the convoluted digestive sack, and the outer walls at the arm-openings. Each of their subdivisions can be traced into an arm-opening, and it is very probable that they continued on out the ambulacral furrows of the arms and tentacula. At one point in one of these ambulacral canals, beneath the vault, some evidences of the remains of two rows of minute pieces were observed alternating with the upper edges of those composing the under side of these canals, and thus apparently covering them over. The condition of the parts is such, however, as scarcely to warrant the assertion that this was really the case, though we are much inclined to think it was. If so, these canals must have been, at least under the vault, hollow tubes, formed of two rows of pieces below, and two above, all alternately arranged.

We are not aware that any evidences of the existence of these delicate ambulacral canals, composed of minute calcareous pieces, and passing beneath the vault from the arm-openings to the summit of the convoluted digestive sack, have ever before been observed in any Crinoid, recent or extinct; and we can but think it probable, that the extremely rare combination of circumstances

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that brought them to light in this instance may not again occur for centuries to come, with regard to another specimen. That they correspond to the ambulacral canals seen extending from the arm-base to the mouth, on the *outside* of the ventral disc in *Comatula*, is clearly evident.

The presence of furrows radiating from the central region of the under side of the vault to the arm-openings, in various types of palæozoic Crinoids, must have been frequently observed by all who have had an opportunity to examine the inner surface of this part. Messrs. deKoninck and Lehou figure a portion of the vault of *Actinocrinus stellaris*, in their valuable *Recherches sur les Crinoïdes du Terr. Carb. de la Belgique*, pl. iii, fig. 4 f., showing these furrows, which they seem to have regarded as the impressions left by the muscles of the viscera. The inner surface of the vault of most of our western Carboniferous Crinoids is known to have these furrows more or less defined, either from specimens showing this inner surface, or from natural casts of the same. In some instances they are very strongly defined from the central region outward to the arm-bases, to each of which they send a branch. In *Actinocrinus ornatus*, Hall, for instance, they are generally so strongly defined as to raise the thin vault into strong radiating ridges, separated by deep furrows on the outer side. In *Strotocrinus*, the vault of which is greatly expanded laterally, and often flat on top, these internal furrows, in radiating outward, soon become separated by partitions, and as they go on bifurcating, to send a branch to each arm, they actually assume the character of rounded tubular canals, some distance before they reach the arm-bases.

That these furrows or passages of the inner side of the vault were actually occupied during the life of the animal by the ambulacral canals as they radiate from the top of the convoluted digestive sack to the arm-openings, we think no one will for a moment question, after examining Mr. Wachsmuth's specimen of *Actinocrinus proboscidiulis*, which we have described, showing all these parts in place. It is also worthy of note, that in all the specimens of various types in which these furrows of the under side of the vault are well known, whether from detached vaults, or from casts of the interior of the same, they *never converge directly to the opening of the vault, but to a point on the anterior side of it*, whether there is a simple opening or a produced proboscis. The point to which they converge, even in types with a decidedly lateral opening of the vault, is always central or very nearly so, and even when the opening is nearly or quite central, the furrows seem to go, as it were, out of their way to avoid it, those coming from the posterior rays passing around on each side of it to the point of convergence of the others, a little in advance of the opening. That the ambulacral canals here, under this point of convergence of the furrows in the under side of the vault, always came together and connected with the upper end of the convoluted frame-work of the digestive sack, we can scarcely entertain a doubt.

Now in looking at one of these specimens, especially an internal cast of the vault, showing the furrows (or casts of them) starting from a central, or nearly central point, and radiating and bifurcating so as to send a branch to each arm-base, while the opening or proboscis of the vault (or the protuberance representing it in the cast) is seen to occupy a position somewhere on a line between this central point from which the furrows radiate and the posterior side, one can scarcely avoid being struck with the fact, that this point of convergence of the ambulacra, under the vault, bears the same relations in position to the opening of the vault, that the *mouth* of a *Comatula* does to its *anal* opening. And when we remember that eminent authorities, who have dissected specimens of the existing genus *Comatula*, maintain that these animals subsisted on microscopic organisms floating in the sea-water, such as the *Diatomaceæ*, minute *Entomostraca*, etc.,* which were conveyed to the mouth

* Bronn mentions the fact (Klassen des Thierreichs. Actinozoa, II, p. 211), that the remains of *Diatomaceæ*, of the genera *Navicula*, *Actinocyclus* *Coscinodiscus*, and of minute *Entomostraca* were found in the stomach of *Comatula*, and suggests that, when such objects, in

along the ambulacral canals, perhaps by means of cilia, we are led from analogy to think that the palæozoic Crinoids subsisted upon similar food, conveyed in the same way to the entrance of the digestive sack. If so, where would there have been any absolute *necessity* for a mouth or other opening directly *through* the vault, when, as we know, the ambulacral canals were so highly developed *under* it from the arm openings to the entrance into the top of the alimentary canal? Indeed it seems at least probable, that if the soft ventral disc of *Comatula* had possessed the power of secreting solid vault pieces, as in most types of palæozoic Crinoids, that these vault pieces would not only have covered over the ambulacral furrows, as in the palæozoic types, but that they would also have hermetically covered over the mouth, and converted the little flexible anal tube into a solid calcareous pipe, such as that we often call the proboscis in the extinct Crinoids.

From all the facts therefore now known on this point, we are led to make the inquiry whether or not, in all the palæozoic Crinoids in which there is but a single opening in the vault—whether it is a simple aperture or prolonged into a proboscis, and placed posteriorly, subcentrally, or at some point on a line between the middle and the posterior side—this opening was not, instead of being the mouth, or both mouth and anus as supposed by some, really the anal aperture alone; and whether in these types the mouth was not generally, if not always, hermetically closed by immovable vault pieces, so far as regards any direct opening through the vault?

We are aware of the fact, that at least one apparently strong objection may be urged against this suggestion, and in favor of the conclusion that the single opening seen in these older Crinoids was the mouth, or at least performed the double office of both anal and oral aperture. That is, the frequent occurrence of specimens of these palæozoic species, with the shell of a *Platyceras* in close contact by its aperture, either with the side or the vault of the Crinoid, and not unfrequently actually covering the only opening in the vault of the latter, so as to have led to the opinion that the Crinoid was in the very act of devouring the Mollusk at the moment when it perished.

Amongst the numerous beautiful specimens of Crinoids found in the Keokuk division of the Lower Carboniferous series at Crawfordsville, Indiana, there is one species of *Platycrinus* (*P. hemisphericus*), that is so abundant that probably not less than two hundred, and possibly more, individual specimens of it have been found there by the different collectors who have visited that noted locality; and, judging from those we have seen, apparently about one-half of these were found with a moderate sized, nearly straight, or very slightly arched and conical *Platyceras* (*P. infundibulum*), attached to one side by its aperture, between the arms of the crinoid, and often so as to cover the single lateral opening in the vault of the same.* From the direction of the slight curve of the apex of the *Platyceras*, it is also evident that it is always placed in such a manner, with relation to the Crinoid, that the anterior side of the Mol-

floating in the sea-water, came in contact with the ambulacral furrows of the pinnule, they were conveyed along these furrows to those of the arms, and thence in the same way into the mouth. He ridicules the idea, sometimes suggested, that the food may have been handed by the pinnule or arms directly to the mouth.

Dujardin and Hupé also state (Hist. Nat. des Zoophytes Echin., p. 18), that the living *Comatula* was "nourished by microscopic *Alge* and floating corpuscles, which the vibratile cilia of the ambulacra brought to the mouth." That they may have sometimes swallowed a larger object, that accidentally floated into the mouth, however, is not improbable, and would not, if such was the case, by any means disprove the generally accepted opinion that these animals received their food almost entirely through the agency of their ambulacral canals.

* We at one time thought these shells attached to the side of this *Platycrinus* to be out of reach of the opening, or supposed mouth, because we had not seen specimens showing the position of the opening in this species, and had supposed, from its similarity to *Platycrinus granulatus*, Miller, and other species without a lateral opening, that such was also the case with this. We have since seen specimens, however, showing that it has a lateral opening, and therefore belongs to the group *Pleurocrinus*, so that it is probable these shells often cover this opening.

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lusk was directed upward, when the vault of the Crinoid was turned in that direction.* A species of *Goniasteroidocrinus* (*G. tuberosus*, Lyon and Casse-day), found at the same locality, also has frequently a *Platyceras* attached to the top of its nearly flat vault, so as to cover the only opening in the same. It is worthy of note, however, that it is always another, subspiral, *Platyceras* (very similar to *P. equilaterum*), that we find attached to this Crinoid, so that here at least, it would seem that each of these two Crinoids has its own particular species of *Platyceras*.

In all of these, and numerous other examples that might be mentioned, it is worthy of note that it is to species of Crinoids with a simple opening in the vault, and not to any of those with a produced proboscis, that we find these shells attached in this way;† and it is so rarely that we find shells of any other genus than *Platyceras*, apparently attached to, or in contact with, the body of a Crinoid, that it seems probable where other shells are occasionally so found, that their connection with the Crinoid may be merely accidental. If it could be established as a fact, that these Crinoids were actually devouring these Mollusks, by sucking out, or otherwise extracting and swallowing their softer parts, in any instance where they have been found with a shell attached over the opening of the vault, this would, of course, establish the fact that this opening is the mouth, or, at least, that it must have performed the office of both oral and anal aperture. But to say nothing in regard to all that is known of the habits and food of the recent Crinoids being so directly opposed to such a conclusion, the fact that so large a proportion as nearly one-half of all the individuals of some species should have died at the precise moment of time when they were devouring a *Platyceras*, and should have been embedded in the sediment and subsequently fossilized without separating from the shell, seems, to say the least of it, very improbable.

And it is even more difficult to understand upon what principal an animal with its viscera incased in a hard unyielding shell, composed of thick, close-fitting calcareous pieces, and with even its digestive sack, as we have reason to believe, at least to some extent, similarly constructed, could have exerted such powers of suction as to be able to draw out and swallow, through an aperture in its own shell, often less than one-tenth of an inch in diameter, the softer parts of a mollusk nearly or quite equal in volume to the whole of its own visceral cavity. That they ever did so, however, becomes still more improbable, when we bear in mind the fact, that the animal supposed to have performed this feat, lived, at least during the whole of its adult life, attached to one spot by a flexible stem, that only allowed it a radius of a foot or so of area to seek its prey in; while the mollusk it is supposed to have so frequently devoured, from its close affinities to the genus *Capulus*, may be supposed to have almost certainly lived most of its life attached to one spot.‡ In such a case, why

* Prof. Richard Owen has noticed, in his Report on the Geological Survey of Indiana, p. 364 (1862), the frequent occurrence of a *Platyceras* attached to this same *Platycrinus*, at this locality, and proposed to name the *Platyceras* *P. pabulocrinus*, from the supposition that it formed the chief food of these Crinoids. It is probable that the *Platyceras* for which he proposed this name, is the same we named *P. infundibulum*, but as he gave no description of the species, and but an imperfect figure, we cannot speak positively as to its identity. Prof. Hall has also proposed the name of *P. subrectum* for this Crawfordsville *Platyceras*, but he had previously used the same name for a very different, New York, Devonian species of this genus.

† Prof. Yandell and Dr. Shumard have also figured in their paper entitled "Contributions to the Geology of Kentucky," a specimen of *Acerocrinus*, with a very similar *Platyceras* apparently attached to its vault.

‡ Amongst all the numerous Crinoids found at Burlington, Iowa, we are aware of but a single instance of one being found with a *Platyceras* attached, and that is a specimen of *Actinocrinus ventricosus* in Mr. Wachsmuth's collection, which has a crushed shell of a *Platyceras* connected with its vault.

† Possibly due to the fact, that in species with a proboscis there is much less room for attachment to the vault.

‡ Most of the best European authorities on paleontology refer these shells even to the existing genus *Capulus*.

should the Crinoid have so frequently left the *Platyceras* to grow within its reach to nearly its adult size before devouring it? But if from some unknown cause it should have done so, by what means could the Crinoid have pulled loose the Mollusk (which from analogy we may reasonably suppose held with some degree of tenacity to its place of attachment), and placed it with the aperture of its shell over the opening supposed to be its own mouth? That it could have used its arms and tentacula as prehensile organs, in this sense, is extremely improbable from their very structure, so much so indeed that few if any of the best authorities who have investigated the recent Crinoids, believe that they ever used these appendages to hand directly to the mouth, even minute organisms.*

But we believe the strongest argument against the conclusion that the Crinoids, so frequently found with the shell of a *Platyceras* attached to them, died while in the act of sucking out, or otherwise extracting the softer parts of these Mollusk, remains to be stated. In the first place, if such really was the nature of the relations between the Crinoid and the Mollusk, it is of course self-evident that the continuation of the life of the latter must have necessarily been of very short duration after it came in contact with the Crinoid. Yet we have the most conclusive evidence that such was not the case; but that on the contrary, in most if not all of these instances, the *Platyceras* must have lived long enough in contact with the Crinoid to have adapted the sinuosities of the margins of its shell exactly to the irregularities of the surface of the Crinoid.

We have taken some trouble to examine carefully a number of specimens of *Platycrinus hemisphaericus*, and *Goniasteroidocrinus tuberosus*, from Crawfordsville, Indiana, with each a *Platyceras* attached, and in all cases where the specimens are not too much crushed or distorted, or the hard argillaceous shaly matter too firmly adherent to prevent the line of contact between the shell and Crinoid to be clearly seen, the sinuosities of the lip of the former closely conform to the irregular nodose surface of the latter. Owing to the fact that in some cases the shell has evidently been forced by accidental pressure against the surface of the Crinoid, so as to become somewhat crushed, this adaptation is not always so clearly evident; but in most cases it is more or less visible, while in some it is strikingly manifest. In one instance of a *Platycrinus* now before us, with a *Platyceras* attached, as usual, to its side, between the arm-bases of two of its adjacent rays, and of rather larger size than those usually found attached to this species, the adaptation of the irregularities of its lip, so as to receive the little nodes and other prominence of the Crinoid, is so clearly manifest that a moment's examination must satisfy any one that the shell must have grown there. Being, as we stated, a larger individual than we usually see so situated, it not only occupies the whole of the interradial or anal space to which it is attached, but its lateral margins on each side coming in contact with the arm-bases of the Crinoid, as the shell increased in size, had formed on either side a *profound sinus in its lip for the reception of these arms*. These sinuses are not only in pre-

* In many instances it is clearly evident that it would have been an *absolute impossibility* for certain types of our Carboniferous Crinoids to have handed any object great or small, directly to the only opening through the vault. That is, where this opening is at the extremity of a straight rigid tube, often nearly twice the length of the arms, even to the extreme ends of their ultimate divisions. We are aware that some have supposed this tube, or proboscis, to have been flexible, and the Messrs. Austin even thought it was especially designed and used for the purpose of sucking out the softer parts of Polyps. If flexible, we might suppose that in those cases where it was so much longer than the arms, that it could have been curved so as to bring its extremity within reach of the ends of the arms; but although we have in a few instances seen this tube more or less bent, a careful examination always showed that, where this was not due to an accidental fracture after the death of the animal, it was caused by the plates composing it being on one side larger, or differently formed from those on the other, and evidently not to flexibility. We find the arms, which were evidently flexible, folded and bent in every conceivable manner, but the tube of the vault is, in nine cases out of ten, if not more frequently, when not accidentally distorted, found to be perfectly straight, or a little inclined to one side or the other.

cisely the *proper places*, but of exactly the *proper size and form* to receive the adjacent arm on each side; the entire adjustment being so exact, that it seems scarcely possible that the shell could have been removed during the life of both animals, and after the Mollusk had attained its present size, without either breaking its lip or breaking off the arms of the Crinoid. Unfortunately, in clearing away the rather hard argillaceous matrix, before the arrangement of the parts was clearly comprehended, these arms were broken away, but their stumps are still seen protruding from the sinuses, which are so deep as almost to present the appearance of isolated perforations, though it is evident, on a careful examination, that they are only deep emarginations extending up from the edge of the lip.

In looking at the sides of this *Platyceras*, which has the form of a very slightly arched cone,* and stands out nearly at right angles to the side of the Crinoid, it is easy to see, from abrupt curves in the lines of growth, along up its sides, on a line above the sinuses mentioned, that these sinuses commenced forming abruptly at points about half way up; and on measuring across between these points with a pair of dividers, the space between is found to coincide very closely with that between the inner sides of the arm-bases protruding from the sinuses. Hence it is evident that the shell had commenced forming these sinuses in its lip exactly at the period of its growth, when it had attained a breadth that brought the edges of its lip in contact with the arm-bases. After this, it had increased very little *in breadth* between the arms of the Crinoid, though it had grown somewhat wider above and below, and *nearly doubled its length*. Whether or not it covers the opening in the side of the vault of the Crinoid we are unable to say, since the folded arms (which are, as usual in these cases, well preserved) and adhering matrix, cover the vault. We have scarcely any doubt now, however, that the *Platyceras* does, in this, as in most of the other cases, actually cover the opening in the side of the vault of the Crinoid.

From the facts stated it is, we think, evident that these Mollusks actually lived long enough after their connection with the Crinoids, to which we find them attached, not only to have adapted the edges of their lip to fit the surface of the Crinoid, but to have generally increased more or less in size, and in some instances, at least, to have actually nearly or quite doubled their size. Admitting this to be the case—and we think there can be no reasonable doubt on this point—we can no longer believe that these Crinoids were preying upon the Mollusks; and we therefore think no well founded arguments can be based upon the fact of their being so frequently found attached in the manner described, in favor of the conclusion that the opening in the vault of these Crinoids is the mouth.

But, if they were not in the habit of eating these Mollusks, it may be asked what could have been the nature of the relations between the two, that so frequently brought them together as we now find them? The first explanation that suggests itself is, that possibly the Mollusk may have been preying upon the Crinoid. But the fact, already stated, that these Mollusks evidently lived long enough attached to these Crinoids, as we have every reason to believe, during the life of the latter, to have at least increased the size of their shells considerably, if not indeed during their entire growth, is alone an almost insurmountable objection to such a conclusion. Doubtless, like other marine sedentary animals, these Mollusks, when very young, floated freely about in the sea, until they found a suitable station to attach themselves, where they remained during life. May they not, therefore, have been attracted to the bodies of Crinoids by the numerous little organisms brought in by the action of cilia, along the ambulacral furrows of the arms of the Crinoids, or in currents produced by the motions of the arms of the latter? The excre-

*It being the common species of *Platyceras* that is usually found attached to this *Platycrinus*.

matious matter of the Crinoid could doubtless have passed out under the foot of the *Platyceas*, supposing the opening in the Crinoid sometimes covered by these shells to have been the anus, but it is difficult to conceive how food could have passed in, if we suppose this opening to be the mouth.

On the Seed Vessels of FORSYTHIA.

BY THOMAS MEEHAN.

Forsythia suspensa Vahl., and *F. viridissima* Lindl., two Chinese plants, have I believe, never been known to produce perfect seed, though common in cultivation. The latter rarely produces capsules; the former bears capsules freely, but no perfect seed.

These two plants have strong specific differences; yet my studies in development, as published in papers in our Proceedings, lead me to believe them to have an unity of origin. Noticing last spring that the stamens in *F. suspensa*, and the pistil in *F. viridissima*, were relatively more highly developed, I supposed the two might possibly be, as we say practically, male and female forms of the same thing. I impregnated flowers of *F. viridissima* with pollen from *F. suspensa*, and for the first time had the opportunity of examining perfect capsules of this species. The seeds, however, though apparently mature, proved imperfect on dissection. There is no doubt but that *F. suspensa* conferred on the other the power to produce capsules,—why not the additional power of perfect seeds is a mystery,—though not more so perhaps than that it should itself be able to produce only seedless capsules. Another form is probably missing, necessary to fertilize the plant and furnish the wanting link to prove the hypothesis of a unity of origin.

But some useful facts proceed from the experiment. The capsule of *F. viridissima* I believe has never been described. Lindley, the author of the species, does not seem to have seen it. It is broadly ovate, sharp pointed, and wrinkled, carpels of a thin papery texture, bivalvate. Seeds resembling small grains of white wheat, wingless, developing upwards a swell as down from the funiculus, shining, and profusely pitted with small dots. The peduncles are rather shorter than the pods. *One capsule was four-celled, with seeds in each division.*

F. suspensa is variously described by different authors. Bunge says the capsule is "about four-seeded," Endlicher "few," and Zuccarini "numeros." The author makes the seeds "narrowly winged." I find the capsule narrowly lanceolate, ligneous, and verrucose, on pedicels double its length, composed of two carpels, in one of which I counted sixteen immature winged seeds; one, however, was fully developed, although as in the other form imperfect, and this was wingless, exactly resembling those of *F. viridissima* in all but color, which was a little darker.

The chief interest is the relation these capsules exhibit to Syringa and to the allied orders of Solanaceæ and Jasminaceæ. It was plain in the four-celled capsule of *F. viridissima* that placentous matter pushes out from the central axis in four directions, though usually the *two alternates are destitute of ovules*. When barren it is most highly developed. On perfect seeds it forms no margin; on imperfect ones a wing, until in Syringa, where the productive division bears only a single winged seed, the unproductive one is expanded into a long broad wing, pushing through the whole length of the incurved carpellary margins, cementing them closely together, and thus necessitating the peculiar dorsal dehiscence familiar in the common Lilac. A slight difference in the vigor of placentous development constitutes the chief cause of the differences in these three forms of capsule.

The polyspermous placentation of Forsythia indicates an approach to Solanaceæ, and the erect tendency of the seeds to Jasminaceæ.

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