

ECHINODERMATA.

BY HUBERT LYMAN CLARK.

(Plates xlvii.-lviii.)

The collection of Echinoderms made by the "Thetis" is not very extensive, containing, as it does, only eight hundred and seventy-five specimens, representing fifty-four species, with five hundred and forty-eight of the specimens belonging to four species. In spite of the small size of the collection it is of great scientific interest, not merely because eighteen of the species have not hitherto been described, but also because of the new light which it throws on the breeding habits of some species and the distribution of certain genera. The specimens sent me represent only twenty-five stations of the fifty-nine occupied by the "Thetis"; there are, however, in addition, forty-two specimens from Lord Howe Island, representing thirteen species, and a few labelled "near Sydney," "Barrenjoey," or "off Broken Bay." The stations which revealed the richest Echinoderm fauna (aside from Lord Howe Island) were 57, off Wata Mooli, 54-59 fathoms, where nine species were taken; 13, off Cape Three Points, 41-50 fathoms, where nine species occurred; and 48, off Wollongong, 55-56 fathoms, where eight species were found. At stations 10, 36, 44 and 54, five or more species were collected.

The specimens from Lord Howe Island are of particular interest, because when considered in the light of previous knowledge they furnish us with a fair idea of the Echinoderm fauna of that isolated islet. In 1887 the Trustees of the Australian Museum sent a party to Lord Howe Island for the purpose of extending our knowledge of its geology and zoology. In Mr. R. Etheridge's (junior) report on "The General Zoology of Lord Howe Island,"¹ which was based chiefly upon the work of this party, of which he was a member, the following Echinoderms are recorded from the island.²

Asterias calamaria, Gray.

Asterina exigua, Lamk.

Ophidiaster germani, Per.

Patiria crassa, Gray.

Ophiocoma breviceps, Peters.

¹ Etheridge—Austr. Mus. Mem. ii., 1, No. 1, 1889, pp. 36-39.

²The names are reprinted here exactly as they are given, regardless of typographical errors.