

STUDIES IN ICHTHYOLOGY.

No. 12.*

By

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(Figures 1-3.)

Family ORECTOLOBIDAE.
Genus *Orectolobus* Bonaparte, 1834.

Orectolobus wardi, sp. nov.

Mr. Melbourne Ward has recently presented to the Australian Museum a further fine collection of fishes and elasmobranchs, the latest donation being from the Northern Territory, where he was attached to H.M.A.S. "Moresby" during her survey cruise of 1938. Amongst the sharks he caught was a wobbegong which agrees excellently with Regan's figure¹ of a north Australian specimen which Regan called *Orectolobus tentaculatus* (Peters). However, Peters' type came from South Australia and his name applies to the Wobbegong of Adelaide which has rows of tubercles on the back, more diffuse coloration, and is otherwise quite different. Thus the northern Australian species requires a new name, and I select Mr. Ward's specimen as type of the species, which I have much pleasure in naming after him. Austr. Mus. regd. no. IA.7784.

Loc.—Cape Keith, Melville Island, Northern Territory of Australia.

Family SQUALIDAE.
Subfamily ETMOPTERINAE Fowler, 1934.
Genus *Acanthidium* Lowe, 1839.

Acanthidium Lowe, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., vii, Oct., 1839, p. 91. Logotype,
A. pusillum Lowe, from Madeira, selected by Goode & Bean, Oceanic Ichthyology, 1895, p. 10.

A genus of small, dark-coloured, deep sea dogsharks with five gill-slits and spined dorsal fins. Lowe's genus has been united with *Spinax* Cloquet, 1816 (= *Etmopterus* Rafinesque, 1810) by some authors, but is easily distinguished by having the first dorsal fin much smaller than the second and the ventrals just before the level of the second dorsal. In *Squalus spinax* Linné, the genotype of *Etmopterus*, these fins are entirely different, as Willughby's figure, the type of Linné's species, shows.

* For No. 11, see RECORDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, Vol. xx, No. 3, August, 1938, p. 195.

¹ Regan.—Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., 1908, p. 357, pl. xii, fig. 2.