

XII.—DESCRIPTION OF THE SPECIMENS.

Class CRINOIDEA.

Order NEOCRINOIDEA.

Family HOLOPIDÆ, Roemer, 1856 ; *emend.* Zittel, 1879, and P. H. Carpenter, 1884.

Genus, *Holopus*, d'Orbigny, 1837 ; *emend.* P. H. Carpenter, 1884.

A. GENERAL ACCOUNT OF THE TYPE.

Definition.—Basals and radials completely anchylosed into an asymmetrical tube-like calyx, which is fixed by an irregularly expanded base. On the upper edge of the cup are five unequal articular surfaces for the attachment of the second radials. Arms ten, massive, and closely inrolled. Disk relatively small, with a central mouth protected by five oral plates, between which and the edge of the cup is a very narrow irregular pavement of smaller plates. Anus probably present, but not yet observed.

Remarks.—The description of this genus, which was established by d'Orbigny in 1837, attracted much attention on account both of the novelty and of the rarity of this singular type. The specimen described by d'Orbigny, which was for a long time unique, was brought from Martinique by M. Sander Rang. It is tetra- instead of penta-radiate as most Crinoids are, and this seems to have caused some misconception respecting its true nature, for it receives no mention whatever in Pictet's *Paléontologie*; while Dujardin and Hupé¹ expressed their opinion in 1862 that *Holopus* is not a Crinoid at all, but an altogether different type, probably a Cirripede.²

A few years later, however, a normal pentaradiate example was brought up on a fisherman's line from deep water off Barbados. It was fortunately acquired by the governor, Sir Rawson Rawson, and was placed by him in the hands of Prof. Louis Agassiz during the stay of the "Hassler" at Barbados in 1872. Prof. Agassiz intended to have published a full description of the specimen, but was prevented from doing so by failing health, and after his death the figures which he had prepared were published by Mr. Alexander Agassiz, together with a short descriptive note by Count Pourtalès.³

¹ Mémoire sur une seconde espèce vivante de la famille des Crinoïdes ou Encrines, servant de type au nouveau genre *Holope* (*Holopus*), *Guérin, Mag. de Zool.*, 7me année, Classe x., 8 pp., pl. 3, Paris, 1837.

² *Op. cit.*, p. 218.

³ Description of a Specimen of *Holopus rangii* from Barbados, *Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, vol. iv. No. 8, p. 51.