



## V.—Natural history notes from H.M. Indian marine survey steamer 'Investigator', Commander C.F. Oldham, R.N., commanding.—Series II., No. 8. Note on *Calypterinus Allmani*

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is not the same as Hood Island. I presume a misunderstanding on the latter point was the cause of Mr. Sladen giving Galapagos Islands as the locality. M. Perrier states that the second specimen he saw in the British Museum was from an unknown locality; however that may be, there is a specimen from Moreton Bay. So that the localities are not equatorial and eastern Pacific, but subtropical and western Pacific.

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V.—*Natural History Notes from H.M. Indian Marine Survey Steamer 'Investigator,' Commander C. F. Oldham, R.N., commanding.*—Series II., No. 8. *Note on Calypterinus Allmani.* By A. ALCOCK, M.B., C.M.Z.S., Officiating Superintendent of the Indian Museum.

IN their Report upon the 'Challenger' Alcyonaria, Messrs. Perceval Wright and Studer describe\* in the family *Primnoidæ* a remarkable new species, *Calypterinus Allmani*, from the vicinity of Fiji. The 'Challenger' specimens are stated to have been fragments about 100 millim. long.

We have recently on board the 'Investigator' dredged several fine branches, one of them 200 millim. in length, of this Alcyonarian; and as it is such a beautiful and remarkable form I venture to offer a few observations, complementary of the original description, upon our specimens.

The axis is branched in either one or two planes; when in two planes they are at right angles to one another, and the branching in one plane (the lateral) greatly predominates.

The branches like the axis are quite rigid, and they ascend with a gentle curve parallel to one another to form a lofty compressed rigid umbel or candelabra: they have little tendency to give off secondary branches, but where such exist they arise singly low down near the origin of the primary branch and ascend parallel with it in the same plane. No tertiary branches occur in any of our specimens. All the branches repeat the same gentle curve with the most remarkable uniformity.

The polyps, as stated by Messrs. Wright and Studer, are disposed in whorls of from four to seven, and they hang head downwards, or downwards and outwards, they having evidently the power of flexion and extension upon the stem.

\* The Voyage of H.M.S. 'Challenger,' Zoology, vol. xxxi. pp. 53 and 54, pl. xi. figs. 1, 1a, pl. xiv. fig. 5, pl. xx. fig. 2.

The structure and arrangement of their spicules and of the coenenchyma have been already so well described and figured that nothing further is to be said here.

In our specimens the tunnel formed by the series of expanded wing-like scales at the bases of the lateral polyps makes a very convenient shelter for a slender chaetopod.

Several beautiful branches were dredged in the Laccadive Sea off Piti Sandbank (lat.  $10^{\circ} 47' 45''$  N., long.  $72^{\circ} 40' 20''$  E.) at a depth of 705 fathoms, the bottom being hard rock and fragments of dead and waterworn reef coral.

Of Alcyonaria there were dredged, at the same time, some large branches of a peculiarly beautiful new species of *Stenella*, near to *S. spinosa*, Wright and Studer; a new species of *Acanella*, represented by a single bush-shaped colony complete in every point; and a branch of *Callistephanus Koreni*, Wright and Studer. Of these and other deep-water Alcyonaria from the Andaman Sea I hope shortly to give an account.

VI.—*Description of a new Sciuropterus from the Philippines.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

FOR many years there have been in the British Museum three specimens of a Flying Squirrel from Palawan resembling superficially *S. alboniger*, Hodgs., but proving on a careful comparison of the skulls and other characters to be essentially different from that animal. I propose to call the species

*Sciuropterus nigripes*, sp. n.

Size large, one of the largest of the genus. Fur long, thick and rather woolly, not so silky as in *S. alboniger*. General colour above grizzled greyish brown, the woolly under-fur pale slaty grey, the straight upper-fur with broad pale drab terminal or subterminal bands. Ears large, thinly haired and blackish terminally, but with longer yellowish hairs on their basal surfaces externally. No longer hairs round base of ears, nor any cheek-tuft. Parachute above rather thinly haired, similar in colour to the back. Lips, both upper and lower, black, contrasting markedly with the pale colour of the cheeks and throat.

Throat, chest, and centre of belly whitish, the hairs yellowish white to their roots; rest of under surface greyish white, the bases of the hairs slaty grey; but the distribution of the patches of uniform whitish and grey and whitish hairs