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Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 2

Publication details, including instructions for authors and subscription information:
<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/tnah08>

V.—On the evils of increasing synonyms

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Published online: 26 Oct 2009.

To cite this article: S.P. Woodward F.G.S. (1856) V.—On the evils of increasing synonyms , *Annals and Magazine of Natural History: Series 2*, 18:103, 36-37, DOI: [10.1080/00222935608697574](https://doi.org/10.1080/00222935608697574)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00222935608697574>

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cupped; surface of stem and back of disk covered with small, oblong, rather distant pores (fig. 8 c).

Millepora truncata, James. Wern. Mem. i. 560.

Tubulipora truncata, Fleming, Brit. Anim. 529; Johnst. Brit. Zooph. 271. pl. 33. figs. 8-10.

β. Interstices of costæ smooth.

2. *D. stellata*, Goldfuss. Pl. I. fig. 9.

Polyzoary fungiform, proliferous, flattened above; costæ numerous, slender; surface of stem covered with large, hexagonal, closely contiguous pits (fig. 9 c).

Ceriopora stellata, Goldfuss, Petrefact. i. p. 39. t. 30. fig. 12; Philippi, Die Tertiärverst. der Nordwestl. Deutschlands, p. 36, 37.

Defrancia stellata, Reuss, Die fossil. Polyparien des Wiener Tertiärbeckens, p. 37. pl. 6. fig. a.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE I.

Fig. 1. *Cellepora cervicornis*, auctor.: a, nat. size; b, portion of surface towards the end of a branch magnified 25 diam.; c, cells magnified.

Fig. 2. *Eschara teres* (n. sp.): a, natural size; b, portion magnified; c, transverse section of a small branch magnified.

Fig. 3. *Eschara Skenei* (var. *tridens*): a, nat. size; b, portion magnified; c, front of cell magnified.

Fig. 4. *Eschara rosacea* (n. sp.): a, a, a, nat. size; b, portion magnified; c, portion magnified (older state of cells); d, portion magnified (young state of cells).

Fig. 5. *Eschara saccata* (n. sp.): a, nat. size; b, portion magnified (young state of cells); c, portion of surface in older parts magnified.

Fig. 6. *Idmonea atlantica*, E. Forbes: a, nat. size; b, front view of branch magnified; c, side view of branch magnified; d, front of young branch magnified; e, back of branch magnified.

Fig. 7. *Hornera frondiculata*, Lamx.: a, nat. size; b, var. *affinis*? nat. size; c, front view of branch magnified; d, back view of branch magnified.

Fig. 8. *Defrancia truncata* (n. sp.): a, nat. size; b, portion of costæ magnified; c, surface of stem magnified.

Fig. 9. *Defrancia stellata*?, Goldfuss: a, nat. size; b, portion of edge of disk magnified; c, surface of stem magnified.

V.—On the Evils of Increasing Synonymy.

By S. P. WOODWARD, F.G.S.

To the Editors of the *Annals of Natural History*.

GENTLEMEN,

IN the May Number of the 'Annals' I showed that "the type of Mr. Jeffreys' new genus (*Schismope*) was a typical *Scissurella*."

This was a simple matter of fact, admitting of no reply; but Mr. Jeffreys has thought proper to raise a number of points, wholly irrelevant to the subject, and most unpleasant to enter upon. The inaccuracy of his statements can only be accounted for by great haste and a very bad memory.

He says he had the pleasure of giving me the specimens on which my observations were made—although I had distinctly stated, *in print*, that I received them from Mr. Damon. This makes it necessary to add that when I applied to Mr. Jeffreys for specimens, he informed me he had sent them all to Mr. Damon; and he may perhaps remember that when—after I had shown him the specimens obtained from Mr. Damon—he brought out a boxful of these tiny shells, I asked him “how he could have told me he had none?” He then offered me some more specimens, expressing a wish (as I understood) that, in justice to Mr. Damon, nothing should be said about them.

Further on, Mr. Jeffreys makes me say I had previously seen no other *Scissurella*, &c. Forgetting that I showed him the finest species he had ever seen—*S. angulata*, Lovén; that I told him I had found *Scissurella* in sand from New Zealand; and that in the British Museum (to go no further) there is the type of *S. Bertheloti*, D’Orb., in a collection we had both lately been examining. Besides, the question was not about *species*: the specific identity of Mr. Jeffreys’ shell with *S. elegans*, D’Orb., was known and admitted by himself, from the first.

A third statement is to the effect that he consulted D’Orbigny’s memoir *at the time* I showed him Philippi’s and Sowerby’s observations. I can only say, that more than a month afterwards (when the paper on “*Schismope*” was gone to the ‘Annals,’ though not printed) he informed me *he had not seen* the memoir in question.

There are several other assertions which it is unnecessary to follow, as they have neither personal nor scientific interest. Perhaps Mr. Jeffreys thinks he is letting himself down easily, and I should be sorry to dispel the illusion.

I will only add a few words of an accomplished botanist, lately quoted by Dr. Carpenter:—“The naturalist who has the true interest of science at heart, not only feels that the thrusting of an uncalled-for synonym into the nomenclature of science is an exposure of his own ignorance and deserves censure, but that a wider range of knowledge and a greater depth of study are required, to prove those dissimilar forms to be identical, which any superficial observer can separate by words and a name.”

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

S. P. WOODWARD.

Barnsbury, June 1856.