

No. 12. — *List of Holothuridæ from the Deep-Sea Dredgings of the United States Coast Survey.* By L. F. DE POURTALES, Assist. U. S. Coast Survey.

(COMMUNICATED BY PROFESSOR B. PEIRCE, SUP'T U. S. COAST SURVEY.)

THE Holothurians obtained in deep water off the Florida reef are few in number, and are very closely allied to, if not identical with, those of the deep-sea fauna of Norway.

The littoral species so abundant on the reef, and in the shallow waters encompassed by it, do not appear to extend into even moderate depths outside, — at least, they were never found in the dredge.

**Cuvieria operculata** POURT. (*C. squamata* Koren? Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. No. 7.)

A satisfactory comparison of the two species could not be made from want of well-determined specimens of the northern species. From *C. Fabricii* it is easily distinguished by the suckers on the ventral disk, which in *C. operculata* are always in a single row on the circumference of the soft disk, and a single row in the marginal plates, whilst in *C. Fabricii* they form a dense band of three or four rows. Two rather mutilated specimens, without names, in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, received from Professor Sars, and which are probably *C. squamata*, have the suckers disposed as in *C. operculata*. The granulation of the scales in the latter is finer than in the two northern species.

It is not very rare in 120 to 135 fathoms.

**Thyonidium conchilegum** POURT. Ibid. = *Th. pellucidum* Vahl.?

**Thyonidium gemmatum** POURT. One young specimen off Tortugas, in sixteen fathoms.

**Echinocucumis typica** SARS. In 320 to 350 fathoms.

**Cucumaria frondosa** GUNNER. A rather small specimen of Holothurian, dredged in 118 fathoms, cannot be distinguished from this species by any satisfactory characters. The skin contains only a few calcareous needles and no plates. Its color was milk-white with yellow spots.

**Molpadia borealis** Sars. The differences between my only specimen and Sars's description and figures consist in the smaller number of calcareous granules and in the calcareous plates being somewhat more symmetrical in shape. I do not think the differences sufficient to establish a new species.

In my specimen the buccal disk is expanded as in Sars's figure, but no tentacles are visible. In the places they ought to occupy fifteen small holes can be counted. Sars never saw any tentacles, although he kept some specimens alive, dredged in 351 fathoms.

Why Selenka should have made out this species to be the same as my *Molpadia oolitica* I cannot well understand. My original specimens were in his hands, and I have re-examined them lately. The calcareous granules of *M. borealis* are small and irregular, in *M. oolitica* they are larger, always oval, and formed of concentric layers. The former has retiform calcareous plates, the latter none. The former has no visible tentacles, the latter has always distinct simple digitiform tentacles, even in mutilated specimens. One of the specimens sent from the Cambridge Museum to Mr. Selenka had received by some accident the label of "Cape Palmas?" and on this one he has based his new genus *Embolus*. I am perfectly satisfied that the *Embolus pauper* Sel. is the same thing as *Molpadia oolitica*. The figures he gives of the œsophagial ring of *Molpadia oolitica* and of a calcareous grain of *Embolus pauper* are both taken from specimens of *M. oolitica*. The absence of œsophagial ring in the specimen he examined is accidental, as is also the absence of the tail-like prolongation of the anal extremity of the body.

CAMBRIDGE, November, 1869.



Lit.	10	20	40	60	80	100	120	140	160	180	200	220	240	260	280	300	320	340	360
<i>Cuvieria operculata</i> Pourt.								— -135											
<i>Thyonidium conchilegum</i> Pourt.						—	-125												
gemmatum Pourt.	16																		
<i>Echinocucumis typica</i> Sars																	—	—	-350
<i>Cucumaria frondosa</i> Gunner							118												
<i>Molpadia borealis</i> Sars.																			351

NOTE. — The depths at the head of the columns are in fathoms. The horizontal lines show the range of the species in depth.



Portalès, L. F. de. 1869. "List of holothuridae from the deep-sea dredgings of the United States Coast Survey." *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College* 1(12), 359–361.

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