

(*Young specimens.*)

Off Havana, Cuba:

Station 2152, 387 fathoms (12543); station 2163, 133 fathoms (12545); station 2164, 192 fathoms (12544); station 2166, 196 fathoms (12364); stations 2319-2350 (12542); station 2347, 216 fathoms (12546); station 2349, 182 fathoms (12541). One or two specimens are contained in each of these lots.

(*Variety described in notes.*)

South of Cuba:

Latitude $19^{\circ} 56' 06''$ N., longitude $75^{\circ} 47' 32''$ W., 254 fathoms; station 2134, 1884, 1 specimen (12548).

Off Havana, Cuba:

Station 2155, 300 fathoms, Cr., specimen (12549).

Pentacrinus asterius (Linn.) Lütken.

P. H. Carpenter, *loc. cit.*, p. 300.

The lower portion of the stem of a large individual was collected off Havana, Cuba, in 1885. It was associated with *Pentacrinus Mülleri* and *Pentacrinus decorus*, and was only detected when the large collection of specimens made by the Albatross, and contained in several tanks, was being overhauled at the National Museum. The exact locality was, therefore, not noted by the naturalists on board the steamer, but it came from one of the stations, 2319 to 2350 inclusive, with depths of 67 to 279 fathoms. The catalogue number is 12363.

This specimen consists of the lower five internodes and part of another internode above, the upper break presenting an irregular and fresh surface, indicating that the upper part of the stem, with its calyx and arms, had probably been broken off by the tangles at the time this fragment was secured. The lower end of the stem terminates with a nodal joint. The entire length of the stem is about 155^{mm} , the diameter 7^{mm} ; the internodes are about 26^{mm} long each, and consist of 18 to 19 joints; the cirri are about 72^{mm} long, with 47 joints.

This stem agrees very well with the description of Dr. Carpenter (*loc. cit.*), and compares favorably with the lower part of his figure given on Plate XI. It adds a new locality to those previously recorded for the species, but we cannot help regretting that a more perfect example was not obtained.

NOTES ON THE GREAT DOLPHIN, CORYPHÆNA HIPPURUS, LINNÉ.

By SILAS STEARNS.*

It is a surface swimmer, living not deeper than half-way to the bottom, in 20 or 30 fathoms of water, and yet never coming into the very shoal water close to the coast. Dolphins are generally distributed over the Gulf of Mexico during the summer months, but in winter the chilly surface water drives them and their food to the lower parts, about the

* Extracted from a letter in reply to inquiries concerning specimen number 37227, accession 16171, forwarded to the Museum by Mr. Stearns about June 17, 1885.—T. H. BEAN.

coasts of Cuba and Yucatan. The Great Dolphin is one of the most active and vigorous fishes known to the Gulf fishermen.

It is often seen while in chase of flying-fishes and schools of small-fry, and also while lurking about vessels at anchor on the fishing grounds or becalmed, to pick up any scraps of food that may be thrown overboard. At such times it can be captured with an ordinary small hook and line, or with the more elaborate outfit of rod, reel, and fine line, using a squid or metal spinner, or common fish-bait.

When hooked the dolphin fights hard, jumping and shaking itself to get rid of the hook, and it is well worth the attention of the angler. It is taken only with hook and line, while trolling, or on the red-snapper grounds as above mentioned.

While in the water it presents a beautiful appearance, being graceful in movement and brightly colored. Then the colors mentioned in the description of the species appear much brighter than after the death of the fish.

The dolphin is not a good food-fish. Its flesh is dark and tough. It spawns in July and August, probably among floating algæ.



Stearns, Silas. 1886. "Notes on the great dolphin, *Coryphaena hippurus*, Linne." *Proceedings of the United States National Museum* 8, 635–636.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/52770>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/51023>

Holding Institution

Smithsonian Libraries and Archives

Sponsored by

Smithsonian

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.