

times required for shells, I may state that the second specimen of this Cowry, sent home by Mr. Gunn to a London collector, was offered by him to Miss Saul for £30, and eventually realized that price.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF GORGONIA FROM AUSTRALIA.
BY J. E. GRAY, ESQ., F.R.S.

[*Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 13th November, 1849.]

PRIMNOA AUSTRALASIÆ. (Radiata, Pl. II. f. 8. 9, nat. size).

Coral elongate, unbranched, rather tapering; cells numerous, regular, placed in close regular circles round the stem, each formed of two series of imbricate calcareous scales.

Inhab. Australasian seas, on oyster-shell and stones.

Several specimens of this very interesting coral were sent to the British Museum by the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land.

This coral is often covered with various species of smaller *Coralines* and *Algæ*. It varies from two to three feet in height. The axis is known from the unbranched species of *Gorgonia* by being more calcareous, and of a pale greyish colour.

Joseph Milligan, Esq., F.L.S., the Secretary of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land, has kindly sent me the following particulars of this coral:—

“It was fished up from a depth of some fathoms in D'Entrecasteaux Channel, between the mainland of Tasmania and Bruné Island. It is found, as you will see, affixed to rocks and stones, and to dead, broken, and half-decayed oyster and scallop-shells, &c. It usually exists in groups, groves or families, varying from three to four to a great many. The long delicate stem, which is horny-looking and highly elastic when dry, varies from the thickness of a knitting-wire to that of a crow-quill, and from its mineralized and root-like attachment, tapers gradually and gracefully to a beautiful acicular point, attaining not unfrequently a length of two or three feet, and having its entire surface covered with a calcareous coat of a cream-yellow colour, delicately annulated, so as much to resemble the fine string of wooden beads worn as a necklace by the poorer natives of Bengal, but with this difference,—that in the coralline the beads form a connected or rather continuous chain, independently of the delicate elastic centre upon which the mineral structure is deposited. I am informed that in one or two instances, when these corallines were procured, they were enveloped throughout with a mucilaginous or jelly-like substance, which when they become dry is exsiccated and shrivelled to such a degree as to be scarcely if at all traceable. You will be able to say whether you consider it likely that there exists, in the recent and living state of the zoophyte, such an external and soft organization.”

This jelly-like substance was doubtless the polypes.



Gray, John Edward. 1852. "Description of a new species of Gorgonia from Australia." *Papers and proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land* 2(1), 198–198.

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