

*Type.* Male. Original number 13. Collected 6th December, 1906, by Mr. S. B. Warren.

This species is very much darker throughout than *M. Klagesi*, to which it appears to be most nearly allied. The similarly dark *M. fuscata* has a wholly grey-mixed belly and a much more elongate skull, without trace of supraorbital beads.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

*Catalogue of the Madreporarian Corals in the British Museum (Natural History).* Vol. VI. By H. M. BERNARD, M.A. London: Printed by Order of the Trustees of the British Museum, 1906.

IN this volume Mr. Bernard completes the description of the genus *Porites* and gives also a descriptive list of the genus *Goniopora* supplementary to that given in vol. iv.

Besides the Corals there are probably few groups in the animal kingdom which present such formidable difficulties to the taxonomist and morphologist alike—difficulties which at the present moment appear to defy solution. Mr. Bernard, who has devoted to this group many years of patient study, has, however, certainly laid the foundations of a more exact knowledge of coral-forming animals, and has at the same time brought to light some important evidence with regard to the effect of isolation and the influence of environment on living organisms, more especially with regard to sessile forms.

The Author has, however, so it seems to us, become entangled in the toils of that seductive question, What is a species? Dissatisfied with our present definition, and unable to supply any better, he has endeavoured to compromise. We venture to think, however, that his suggestion will not be favourably received.

Recognizing a number of local forms in the several genera which he has so far examined, he proposes to regard these not as so many geographical races to be distinguished by trinomial specific names, but as indeterminate incipient species, which are to be distinguished by numerals. So that we get such names as *Goniopora Queenslandiæ quintadecima*, *Goniopora Australiæ occidentalis septima*, *Porites incertæ sedis quartadecima*!!

However, in spite of this positive drawback, Mr. Bernard has contrived to bring together a mass of most valuable information, which will prove of great value not merely to the students of corals, but also to those who are interested in the study of animal life in general.

The plates which illustrate the volume are of great beauty.



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