

ASTERODISCUS TRUNCATUS (COLEMAN, 1911)—A NEW RECORD FOR TASMANIAN WATERS

By

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ABSTRACT

Three specimens of the sea star *Asterodiscus truncatus* constitute the first records of this species from Tasmanian waters. The literature pertaining to the species is surveyed briefly and some mention made of specimens held by various institutions.

INTRODUCTION

During 1966-67 three specimens of *Asterodiscus truncatus* were lodged in the collections of the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart. The specimens, all taken off eastern Tasmania are the first records of the species from these waters.

DETAILS OF THE TASMANIAN SPECIMENS

H260 4/6/1966, three miles east of Bicheno, Tasmania, 30 fathoms, Coll. A. J. Harrison. Don. V. V. Hickman.

H261 6/9/1966, five miles north of Diamond Island, near Bicheno, Tasmania, 27-28 fathoms, Don. B. Bosworth.

H294 May 1967, off Bicheno, Tasmania, 40 fathoms, Don. E. R. Guiler.

LITERATURE

Asterodiscus truncatus was recognised as a new species and described by Coleman after H. L. Clark had attributed the "Thetis" specimens to *Nectria ocellifera*. Clark's (1916) report on the "Endeavour" echinoderms mentioned another nine specimens; Serventy's (1937) paper recorded the species at the western end of the Great Australian Bight and Pope (1951) described the colour of the species in life.

Cotton and Godfrey (1942) and Clark (1938 and 1946) reviewed the information then available.

Occurrence of *Asterodiscus truncatus* in New Zealand waters was recorded by Powell (1937).

SPECIMENS

Some 37 registered specimens are lodged in museums in Australia. The holotype and figured paratype are held by the Australian Museum, Sydney (J 1053 and J 2047 respectively). Two

specimens (J 6977) collected intertidally and 21 further specimens are also held by that institute.

Five specimens are held by the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, including two cotypes (adult from "Thetis" station 56, MCZ 1998; young from "Endeavour" coll. E 1645/MCZ 2484).

COMMENTS

Clark's (1946) comments may now be amended. The species ranges from Norah Head, N.S.W. to the western end of the Great Australian Bight and south to Tasmania; also found in New Zealand waters. The vertical range is from intertidal levels to 200 fathoms.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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