

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF SHARK.

BY ALEX. MORTON.

During the month I had brought to the Museum a peculiar-looking fish, having been found washed up on the beach at Bruny Island. On examination it proved to be a species of *Centrina*; at first I was inclined to believe it was *C. salviani*, but on closer examination it seemed to differ. A specimen of *C. salviani* having been found off the coast of New Zealand some few years back, I had a photo. of the Tasmanian specimen sent to Professor Hutton, F.R.S., Curator Canterbury Museum, Christchurch. Professor Hutton wrote, stating that, judging from the photo., he was inclined to think that the Tasmanian *Centrina* differed from the one in New Zealand, which he considered was *Centrina salviani*. Before finally deciding on making a new species, Mr. Ogilby, the able Ichthiologist of the Australian Museum, kindly undertook to compare the Tasmanian shark with the *C. salviani* in the Sydney Museum. After a careful examination, Mr. Ogilby wrote, saying "that the enormous height of the dorsal fins, and their contiguity, the one to the other, separates this species at a glance from *C. salviani*; the scales also differ considerably." I am very much indebted to Mr. Ogilby for his kindness in examining and furnishing me with the description. I propose giving it the specific name of *bruniensis*.

CENTRINA.—Each dorsal fin with a strong spine. Trunk rather elevated, trihedral, with a fold of the skin running along each side of the belly. Teeth of the lower jaw erect; triangular, finely serrated; those of the upper slender, conical, forming a group in front of the jaw. Spiracles wide, behind the eye.

Two species, *Centrina salviani* from the Mediterranean and neighbouring parts of the Atlantic and New Zealand. *C. bruniensis*, Tasmanian coast.

Centrina bruniensis, Morton.

Body oblong, with the back and sides rounded, and the belly flattened. Head small and strongly depressed, its breadth equal to the distance between the tip of the snout and the spiracle; snout short and obtuse, the distance between its tip and the nearest point of the mouth less than that between the same and the anterior margin of the eye. Nostrils equidistant from the eye and the extremity of the snout. Eye large, with a strong bony supraorbital ridge,

situated midway between the tip of the snout and the anterior gill-opening. Spiracles large, opening behind the upper half of the eye, with a moderate intervening space. Mouth small and transverse, with the lateral groove very broad and deep. Upper jaw with a patch of small, conical, curved teeth anteriorly, consisting of about four irregular rows; a single series of much larger, erect, compressed, minutely serrated, scalpriform teeth in the lower jaw. Gill-openings small, the posterior one pierced immediately in front of the base of the pectoral fin. The first dorsal commences above the middle gill-opening, and rises by a continuous and equal gradation to the spine, its outer margin being straight; behind the spine the rise is much more abrupt, and the contour is slightly convex with the tip rounded; the posterior margin is deeply concave; the height of the fin beneath its extremity is equal to the distance between the anterior gill-opening and the tip of the snout, that of the spine equal to the head in front of the spiracle; the spine is situated in the anterior portion of the last fourth of the base of the fin, is perfectly straight, with a slight inclination forwards, and protrudes a short distance beyond the membrane; its base is exactly midway between the tip of the snout and the origin of the caudal, while the distance between the bases of the two dorsal spines is but little more than the length of the base of the first dorsal in front of its spine, and five-sevenths of the length of the fish in front of it; the intradorsal ridge is very strongly developed; the second dorsal has a general resemblance in shape to the first, but is not so large; the upper margin is more regularly even, and the extremity, which is much more pointed, hangs vertically above the base of the caudal, instead of falling within the vertical from its own base, as with the anterior fin; the length of its base is equal to that of the intradorsal space, and to the height of the fin beneath its tip, and is four-sevenths of the outer margin; the spine is situated in the latter portion of the anterior half of the fin, and is gently curved backwards throughout its entire length; in height it is but little less than that of the first dorsal; the pectoral fin is well developed and pointed, its length equal to the space which divides its anterior basal margin from the nostril; the distance between its base and that of the ventral is two-fifths longer than that between the dorsal spines, and is traversed by a strongly developed lateral ridge; the ventral fin commences beneath the spine of the second dorsal, and the distance between its termination and the origin of the lower caudal lobe is equal to that between the second dorsal and the caudal fin; the caudal lobes are well developed; the outer margin of the upper lobe is straight, the angle and

the posterior margin rounded; the lower lobe is triangular, with the anterior margin slightly concave, and equal in length to the posterior margin, which is sinuous, with the angle rounded. The skin is covered with small rough scales, each of which bears a well developed spinate projection, which consists of a central spine from which radiate four compressed wings, each one terminating at its outer angle in a somewhat shorter spine than the central one.

Colour.—Uniform sandy brown. Type specimen in the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart.