

NOTE ON *SCYLLARUS SCULPTUS*, LATREILLE.

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(Plate xxix.)

THE history of this beautiful, rare, and well-marked species of *Scyllarus* may be briefly given, as follows :—

It was figured by Latreille* with a bare name, which occurs on page 5, in the explanation of the plate of the undermentioned work. At a later date† the species is again referred to, the reference consisting of a line or two, stating that the figure on P. cccxx., represents *Scyllarus sculptus*. The next notice, as far as I can ascertain, is by M. Milne Edwards,‡ who gives a short detailed description, the letters C.M., placed at the end, signifying that the specimen was in the Paris Museum, but without data. I have failed to find any later mention of this highly interesting form, and it seems probable that the type until recently was the only specimen known.

In September, 1892, the writer and several other members of the Museum Staff, paid a visit to Port Stephens, and during the trip two examples were obtained from Mr. Jackson, one of the local residents. In October of the same year, the late Mr. T. Mulhall presented a specimen which was stated to have been obtained in Port Jackson. Since that date two other examples have been received, one from Port Jackson, and the other collected at Newcastle by Mr. J. Mitchell, who kindly presented it to the Trustees.

The first specimens were readily identified by the figure, with which they agree in most of the important characters. There are only two points of difference. The teeth forming the crenulate margin of the fifth joint of the second antenna are smaller and more numerous than represented in the figure; and the alternating bands of darker and lighter colour, indicated on the legs, are much less distinct, or wanting, in our examples. Notwithstanding these differences, I think that our specimens are identical with the individual figured, which was probably collected at or near Port Jackson by some of the early voyagers.

* Latreille—Encyclopédie Methodique (atlas), pt. 24, 1818, pl. cccxx., fig. 2.

† Latreille—Encyclopédie Methodique (text), x., 1825, p. 416.

‡ Milne Edwards—Hist. Nat. Crust., ii., 1837, p. 283.