

AN AUSTRALIAN AMPHIPORA.

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(Plates xlii.-xliii.)

In his "Monograph of the British Stromatoporoids," Prof. H. A. Nicholson said, "so far as known *Amphipora* is represented by one species only, viz.: the form described by Phillips under the name of *Caunopora ramosa* (Fig. and Descript. Pal. Foss., p. 19.) This remarkable species occurs in vast numbers in the Devonian Rocks of Germany and Devonshire, apparently occupying in the former region, as probable in the latter also, a definite horizon in the upper portion of the Middle Devonian series (the *Ramosa-Bänke* of Schulz)."¹

The researches of Mr. A. J. Shearsby, of Yass, have revealed many interesting fossils from the rich Murrumbidgee beds, not the least interesting being that about to be described.

In *A. ramosa*, Phillips the cœnosteum, or calcareous skeleton, is in the form of slender cylindrical stems, which may or may not increase by dichotomy. Each branch is occupied by a longitudinal, axial, central canal, or tube, which may be intersected by tabulæ, transverse or funnel-shaped. The general skeletal tissue is of the Stromatoporoid type, continuously reticulated, but compact instead of being minutely porous. Irregular zoöidal tubes radiate outwards from the axial tube to open on the surface by definite apertures. The appearance of the cœnostial surface varies, either these apertures are visible with vermiculate or tuberculate margins, or the cylindrical branches are surrounded by a zone of lenticular vesicles, enveloped by a delicate apparently imperforate calcareous membrane. The general tissue is completely reticulate and there are neither radial pillars nor concentric laminae as distinct structures (*Nicholson*.)

¹ Nicholson—Mon. Brit. Stromatoporoids, Pt. i., 1886, p. 109.