

STUDIES ON BRYOZOA.

PART I.

BY

REX. W. BRETALL, Invertebrate Zoologist, The Australian Museum.

(Figures 1-3).

NEOEUTHYRIS: A NEW GENUS TO ACCOMMODATE EUTHYRIS WOOSTERI, *MacGillivray.*

In a paper read before the Royal Society of Victoria, MacGillivray¹ included his description of a new species which he named *Euthyris woosteri*. His description was based on the superficial characters of a small fragment of a specimen collected by Mr. W. H. Wooster at Cooktown, Queensland; and with his description MacGillivray gives his reasons for allotting this form to the genus *Euthyris*.

The holotype is housed in the collections of the National Museum, Melbourne, but the Australian Museum has now acquired the remainder of the original specimen from Mr. Wooster.

This species has not again been referred to by the many authorities on the *Bryozoa*, with the exception of the following remark by Harmer², which has led me to re-examine it. "I feel doubtful whether *Euthyris woosteri*, MacGillivray, is rightly referred to this genus....."

The results of my examination show that "*Euthyris*" *woosteri* has, with one exception, all the characters entitling it to a place in the family Euthyridæ, according to Levinson's diagnosis³:—"The *zoecia* are provided with a slightly calcified cryptocyst, and in a larger or smaller part of their surface the surrounding covering membrane is kept distended by ridge-like or rod-shaped processes from the cryptocyst, which has a number of superficial rosette-plates. The interzoecial walls have scattered, uniporous rosette-plates. A compound operculum. No spines and no heterozoecia. There may be endozoecial *oecia* with a projecting ectoecium."

The exception in the case of this form is in the last line of Levinson's diagnosis, which reads "Free, branched colonies." The small specimen obtained by Mr. Wooster was found encrusting marine algae, but what value may be placed on this habit of growth I do not know. MacGillivray and others consider it to be of little importance, and I am of the opinion that the encrusting habit of "*Euthyris*" *woosteri* does not over-ride the structure and give enough reason to place it as yet in a separate family. It must however be considered as generically distinct from the other forms of the family Euthyridæ, and I propose the name of *Neoeuthyris* to accommodate it. From the other genera of the family its differences will be seen from the key. It is closely allied to *Euthyris*, differing firstly in having only one form of the zoecium with no dimorphism of the operculum; and secondly in the presence and disposition of the avicularia.

¹ MacGillivray—Proc. Roy. Soc. Vict., (n.s.) iii., 1891, p. 77, pl. ix., f. 2.

² Harmer—Q. J. Mic. Sci., (n.s.) xlvi., 1902, p. 268.

³ Levinson—Morph. and Syst. Stud. Cheilostomatous Bryozoa, 1909, p. 269.