

FISHES FROM AUSTRALIA AND LORD HOWE ISLAND.

No. 2.

By

ALLAN R. McCULLOCH, Zoologist, Australian Museum.

(Plates xiv-xvi.)

The Fishes of Lord Howe Island are remarkable both for their large number of species and for their diversity. Many are tropical species and inhabitants of the coral-reef, which, though situated so far south, is very similar to the reefs of the Coral Sea. Others are pelagic forms, and some apparently come from the deep seas which encompass the island. Myctophids and Gempyllids are not infrequently cast up on the various beaches in considerable numbers, while such rarities as *Xenogramma*, *Argyropelecus*, *Tetragonurus*, *Zenopsis*, and *Cubiceps* have been made known from specimens found stranded on the sand. Some of these appear to be inhabitants of deep water, and the reason for their occurrence at the surface is not apparent. Perhaps some cold-water current is diverted from its course by unusual weather conditions, and brings the fishes from their usual environment to the surface where they become helpless under reduced pressure and higher temperatures. Whatever be the cause, the fact remains that the beaches of Lord Howe Island provide a host of interesting fishes so far unknown from any other source.

A number of these were secured for the Trustees of the Australian Museum by the late Mrs. T. Nicholls, and still others are coming to hand through the interest of Mr. R. Baxter, of which several are dealt with in the following paper.

Mr. E. H. Rainford, of Bowen, Queensland, continues to forward exceedingly rich collections from the neighbourhood of Port Denison. A remarkable new genus and species herein described is called *Rainfordia* as some small acknowledgment of his greatly valued help in making the fishes of that region known.

*Family* GONOSTOMIDÆ.

MAUROLICUS *Cocco*.

*Maurolicus Cocco*, Nuovi Ann. Sci. Nat. ii, 1838, p. 32 (*amethystinopunctatus*).

*Triarcus* Waite, Tr. N. Zeal. Inst. xlii, 1910, p. 387 (*australis*).