SOME FURTHER NOTES ON SPECIES OF *TAMARIA* (ASTEROIDEA).

By

ARTHUR A. LIVINGSTONE,
Assistant Zoologist, The Australian Museum, Sydney.

(Plates xl-xlii and Figures 1-2.)

A further study of the complex species of the genus *Tamaria* Gray has resulted in the discovery of two species believed to be undescribed and a new and surprising record for *T. megaloplax* (Bell). I am indebted to Mr. C. C. A. Monro, of the British Museum (Natural History), for the interest he has taken on my behalf and for the preparation of photographs of the specimens referred to in this contribution. As the rules of the British Museum prevent the loan of specimens for examination, I am not able to study the actual material, yet, in view of the fact that the photographs before me show all that is necessary, I am of the opinion that the action taken herein to describe the specimens is fully justified. As a measure of precaution, however, I sent the manuscript to the British Museum in order to have the descriptions compared with the actual specimens and the various points verified.

The three specimens referred to in this paper were examined by Bell and labelled "*Linckia megaloplax*". The two described as new are the specimens upon which Bell[1] founded the records of *megaloplax* from Dammer Island, Banda Sea, and Parry Shoal, off Cape Van Dieman, Melville Island, North Australia. These two records have accordingly been sunk as synonyms under the new species. As to the Holothuria Bank record we know that some of Bell's material from that locality, labelled *L. megaloplax* by Bell himself, was referred to by Clark (1921) under the heading of *Tamaria fusca*, but I have pointed out elsewhere that the record applied neither to *megaloplax* nor *fusca* but to Koehler's two species *ornata* and *hirsuta*. With this present specimen, labelled by Bell himself, and coming from Holothuria Bank, it is clear that Bell had at least one of his many specimens from that locality correctly determined.

From available information one concludes that the genus *Tamaria* embraces a greater number of species within a small area than was hitherto thought probable. The merging of Koehler's two species *ornata* and *hirsuta* under *fusca* Gray has been pointed out in an earlier paper to be erroneous, so that within the area formed by Cape Jaubert, near Broome, in the west, Gladstone in the east, and Dammer, Aru and Kei Islands, Banda Sea in the north, we find the following species: *T. pusilla* (M. and Tr.), *T. fusca* Gray, *T. megaloplax* (Bell) =

[1] Bell.—Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1894, p. 395.