

A SEA ANEMONE, *EDWARDSIA MERIDIONALIS* SP. NOV.,
FROM ANTARCTICA AND A PRELIMINARY REVISION OF
THE GENUS *EDWARDSIA* DE QUATREFAGES, 1841
(COELENTERATA: ACTINIARIA).

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SUMMARY

A newly recognized sea anemone, *Edwardsia meridionalis* sp. nov., from McMurdo Sound, Antarctica is described and compared with other *Edwardsia* species. Its habitat and geographical distribution are described.

The generic name *Edwardsia* de Quatrefages, 1841 and the familial name Edwardsiidae Andres, 1881 are invalid. A summary of a proposal made to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to conserve these names is given.

The genus *Edwardsia* is defined and its known synonyms are given. A review of the published descriptions found of nominal *Edwardsia* species revealed many *nomina nuda*, *nomina dubia*, synonyms and homonyms. The remaining *nomina clara* comprise forty currently accepted nominal species, which are listed with their known synonyms and geographical distributions.

The following nomenclatural changes are instituted: *E. carlgreni* nom. nov. is proposed as a replacement name for *E. pallida* Carlgren, 1921, a junior primary homonym of *E. pallida* Verrill, 1879; *E. neozelanica* Farquhar, 1898, a subjective synonym of *E. elegans* Farquhar, 1898, is proposed as a replacement name for *E. elegans* Farquhar, which is a junior primary homonym of *E. elegans* Verrill, 1869; *E. claparedii* (Panceri, 1869) is regarded as the valid name of *E. callimorpha* (Gosse, 1853) (*sensu* Stephenson, 1935) whilst *E. callimorpha* (Gosse, 1853) (*sensu stricto*) reverts to *Scolanthus callimorphus* Gosse, 1853; *E. perdita* nom. nov. is proposed as a replacement name for *E. grubii* Andres, 1883, a junior secondary homonym of *E. grubii* (A. Costa, 1869); *Fagesia janthina* comb. nov. is proposed for *E. janthina* Andres, 1881; *E. horstii* Pax, 1924b is a simultaneously published synonym of *Isoedwardsia curacaoensis* Pax, 1924b and its valid name is here regarded as *Scolanthus curacaoensis* (Pax, 1924b).

Further research may reveal invalid names amongst the currently accepted nominal species: notes are made on some of those which might prove to be invalid. Furthermore, any of the *nomina dubia* might be raised to the status of *nomina clara* if type material were found, but their validity would still remain to be established.

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INTRODUCTION

The coelenterate genus *Edwardsia* de Quatrefages, 1841 is one of the largest known within the order Actiniaria (sea anemones) and its distribution is world wide: all members of the genus burrow into mud, sand or gravel. It is a curious fact that although Actiniaria have frequently been collected from McMurdo Sound in Antarctica, no species of *Edwardsia* have hitherto been reported there. However, during studies on the diversity and structure of benthic communities in the Sound, large numbers of an un-named *Edwardsia* species were collected in 1970 by Dr J. K. Lowry (then at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand; currently at the Australian Museum, Sydney). Through the kindness of Dr Lowry and Mr J. S. Oliver in supplying specimens I have been able to make the following description of the species for which I propose the name *Edwardsia meridionalis* sp. nov.: the trivial name refers to its southerly distribution.

Carlgren (1949), in a survey of the world's sea anemones, listed 55 species of *Edwardsia* which he apparently regarded as valid and several more have since been described. An examination of the original and some subsequent descriptions of these and all the other nominal species of *Edwardsia* which were found in the literature revealed the need for a review of the genus. The number of presently accepted species is reduced to forty and the remaining nominal species are classified as *nomina nuda*, *nomina dubia*, synonyms or homonyms. It should be emphasized that some of the presently accepted nominal species listed in appendix II might prove to be conspecific: some of the possible synonyms are noted, but further research is necessary to assess their status. Furthermore, any of the *nomina dubia* might be raised to the status of *nomina clara* if type material were found but their validity would still remain to be established.

SYSTEMATICS: DESCRIPTION OF *EDWARDSIA MERIDIONALIS* SP. NOV.

Edwardsia de Quatrefages, 1841*, p.427

Edwardsia. — de Quatrefages, 1842, p.68; Carlgren, 1921, p.27; Stephenson, 1935, p.52; Carlgren, 1949, p.22; Manuel, 1977, p.484.

Actinia. — Stimpson, 1853, p.7 (*pro parte*); [non *Actinia* Browne, 1756, = *Actinia auct.*, e.g. Stephenson, 1935†].

Milnea. — Reichenbach in Wright, 1866, p.782; (see appendix I).

Urophysalus. — A. Costa, 1869, p.56; (see below).

Halcampa. — Panceri, 1869, p.6 (*pro parte*).

Edwardsiella. — Andres, 1883, p.305 (*pro parte*); McMurrich, 1913, p.551; Verrill, 1928, p.27.

* The usage of this genus-group name which is preoccupied by *Edwardsia* O. G. Costa, 1834, is discussed in appendix I. No nominal species were included at the time the genus was established.

† *Actinia* Browne, 1756, being published before the starting point of zoological nomenclature, is an unavailable name: the valid name of this genus is *Priapus* Linnaeus, 1758.