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Some Echinozoans from North of New Zealand

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Abstract

THE echinoids and holothurians collected by the *Tui* expedition of 1962 are described. The collection comprises 44 specimens and fragments representing 19 genera and 19 species. Two elasipod holothurian species are described as new, and *Amperima* nom. nov. is proposed to replace the preoccupied generic name *Periamma* Perrier, type species *P. roseum* Perrier. New records for the New Zealand region are *Stereocidaris sceptriferoides* (Doderlein), *Prionocidaris australis* (Ramsay), *Salenocidaris hastigera* (Agassiz), *Oligopodia epigonus* (v. Martens), *Coelopleurus* sp. and *Benthogone rosea* Koehler.

Benthogone rosea was previously known only from the north Atlantic Ocean, while the remainder of the species listed above are of Indo-west-Pacific distribution. It is evident that many of the northern New Zealand deep-water faunal elements are shared with Australia. An annotated list is given of all the echinoids known from immediately to the north of New Zealand.

INTRODUCTION

THE waters to the north of New Zealand are of the transitional warm temperate type, as described by Knox (1960), under the influence of the warm westward flowing trade wind drift. It follows then that the fauna of this region should reflect the attendant physical conditions, and be of a warm temperate type, paralleling the warm temperate faunas of nearby areas, and showing some differences from the fauna of the remainder of the New Zealand region, which is characterised by cold temperate mixed waters and subantarctic cold temperate water.

This northern area is of great interest zoogeographically, especially in view of the fact that several Australian echinoderm species are known from the northern part of the New Zealand mainland (Fell, 1953), and that the portal of entry of these species is probably from the north. Unfortunately, however, current knowledge of this important northern area is fragmentary, as very little biological sampling has been carried out there, apart from a small number of stations worked by such expeditions as the *Challenger, Terra Nova, Discovery II* and *Galathea.*

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