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Two New Acontiate New Zealand Sea Anemones

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Abstract

A new genus and two new species of acontiate sea anemones are described in detail. The mode of development of the mesenteries as well as the total morphology of one of these suggests that the acontiate thenarian anemones have been derived from the acontiate athenarian anemones. The family Acontiophoridae to which one new species belongs is new to the New Zealand fauna, having previously been known only from South Africa.

The second anemone is a species of *Flosmaris*, a previously monotypic genus known only from the Maldive Islands. The family, Isophelliidae, to which *Flosmaris* is assigned, is also new to the New Zealand fauna. The occurrence of catch-tentacles in this species is the first record of their presence in this family.

PART I. *Mimetridium cryptum* n.g., n.sp.

IN a short paper on some sea anemones from the Kermadec Islands, Stuckey (1914, p. 134) described a new species which he named *Metridium canum*. Carlgren in his 1949 (p. 106) "Survey" of the sea anemones of the world, questioned whether this species was indeed a *Metridium*. The basis for this query was undoubtedly founded first on the general inadequacy and vagueness of Stuckey's description, and second, upon the fact that up to 1949 there was but one well accepted species in that genus, that being the well known *Metridium senile*. In 1951 (p. 89) Parry listed *Metridium canum* from the Heathcote Estuary at Christchurch and in an Addendum on p. 119 added that Dr. E. J. Batham had found a species of *Metridium* which was probably *M. canum* in Otago Harbour. Parry (1952, p. 133) in the second part of her study of New Zealand anemones described *M. canum* in considerable detail, basing her description on material from the Heathcote Estuary. A brief note on the appearance and habitat of the Otago Harbour *Metridium canum* was provided by Ralph and Yaldwyn (1956, p. 68) and a comparison of the mesenteric nerve net of *M. canum* and *M. senile* was made by Batham (1956, p. 91). One additional bit of information on