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PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
Cotteswold Naturalists'
FIELD CLUB

For 1881—1882

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CORRIGENDUM.

Vol. VII, Pl. IV, fig 4, pp. 274 and 279—For *Nerinæa Simplex*, read "*N. Calcareæ*." It appears that the name *N. Simplex* was given to another species by DESLONGCHAMPS, in 1849.

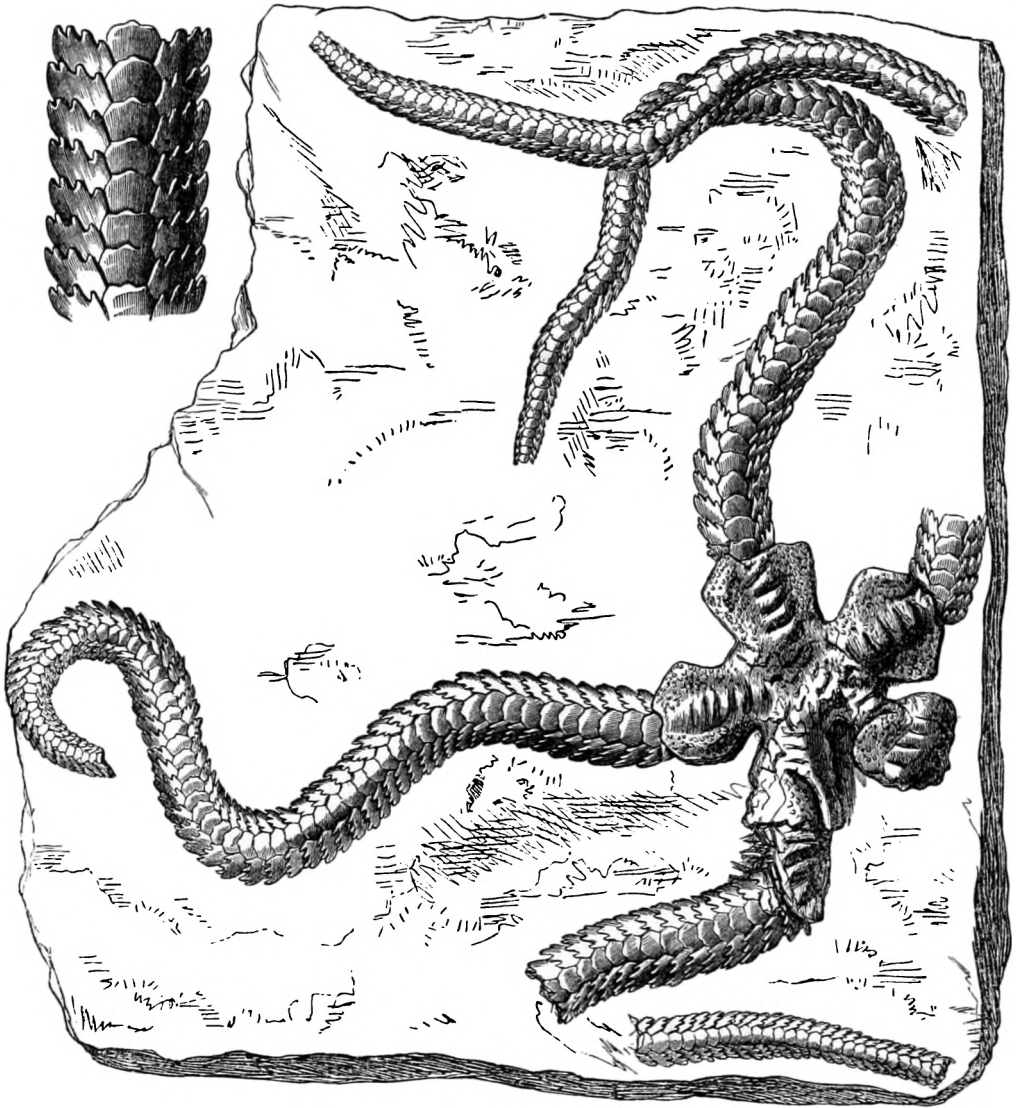
On a New Species of Brittle Star, from the Coral Rag of Weymouth. By DR. THOS. WRIGHT, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

Genus.—OPHIURELLA—*Agassiz*, 1835.

Disk small, membranous, often very indistinct; rays long, slender; lateral ray-plates provided with elongated filiform spines. All the species hitherto found are Jurassic.

OPHIURELLA NEREIDA.—*Wright*, nov. sp.

Diagnosis.—Disk small, irregularly pentalobed, each lobe consisting of a shield-like elevation formed by the radial plates, which are covered by a tegumentary membrane, closely studded over with small granules; rays five, four times the length of the diameter of the disk. The rays taper a little between the disk and their termination, and consist of numerous highly movable rings, each composed of (1st) a centro-dorsal plate, which with its fellows form a long, smooth, convex continuous chain, flattened at the summit, and laid along the middle of the rings; (2nd) lateral plates bent downwards, and closely clasping the sides of the rays; each plate supports a small tubercle, on which stout, thorn-like spines are articulated; (3rd) ventral plates, which close the ray below, are very much concealed, and carry many short stout spines. One of the arms of this Brittle Star, as it lies on the slab before me (see figure) resembles a marine worm, *Nereis nuntia*. Hence the origin of the specific name I have proposed for this new species.



OPHIURELLA NEREIDA, *Wright*.

This figure was drawn twice the natural size by my artist, Mr. GAWAN, and engraved on wood by Mr. H. P. WOODWARD, for my monograph on the Oolitic Ophiurida. The specimen was obtained from the Calciferous grit at Sandsfoot Castle, near Weymouth, by PROFESSOR BUCKMAN, F.G.S., who kindly sent it to me for examination, and a description of the species for insertion into the "Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Club." The specimen belongs to Mr. BUCKMAN'S Collection.

Dimensions.—Diameter of the disk, six-tenths of an inch; length of an arm, two inches and six-tenths of an inch. This is less than what it was in the living state, seeing that none of the rays are perfect up to their termination.

Affinities and Differences.—The fragmentary condition of the disk prevents any very definite conclusions as to the true generic position of this Brittle Star, which, however, agrees better with the diagnosis of *Ophiurella* than any other congeneric form. It has the proportionately small disk, with its upper and under surfaces covered with fine granules; the arms long, compressed and flattened; the lateral and central plates carrying spines, which are specially articulated to the lateral pieces. In all these essential generic characters it agrees well with *Ophiurella*. I know of no figured or unfigured Ophiurida from the Corallian or other Jurassic strata which resembles the subject of this note. The only form occurring to my mind is that of *Ophiurella bispinosa*, (D'ORB.) which was only named, but neither figured nor described by D'ORBIGNY. *Ophiurella nereida* differs so widely from all other described forms, that it is impossible to make a mistake in confusing our species with any of them.

I am indebted to the kindness of my old friend the Revd. Professor WILTSHIRE, Secretary to the Palæontographical Society, for the loan of the wood-cut representing this fine fossil, and for which I beg to return him my best thanks.