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TWO NEW OPHIURANS FROM THE SMITHSONIAN- HARTFORD EXPEDITION, 1937

By HUBERT LYMAN CLARK

NEW echinoderms from the shallow waters of the West Indies are still to be expected, but it is probable that our knowledge of the littoral forms will not require the addition of many new names to the list. It was therefore a great surprise to find that each of two specimens, kindly sent to me for examination by Austin H. Clark, of the U. S. National Museum, proves to represent an undescribed species. Each, moreover, is a representative of one of those large and heterogeneous genera our knowledge of which is too superficial or fragmentary to permit its dismemberment into smaller and more natural groups.

It is always regrettable to describe a new species from a unique specimen and never more so than in such genera, but on the other hand such unique specimens must have names assigned to them if they are to be of any value in extending our knowledge of those genera. This is the only justification for publishing the following descriptions.

I wish to thank Mr. Clark for his generous kindness in permitting me to examine and describe these interesting novelties.

Genus *OPHIACTIS* Lütken

OPHIACTIS NOTABILIS, new species

PLATE 52, FIGURES 1, 2

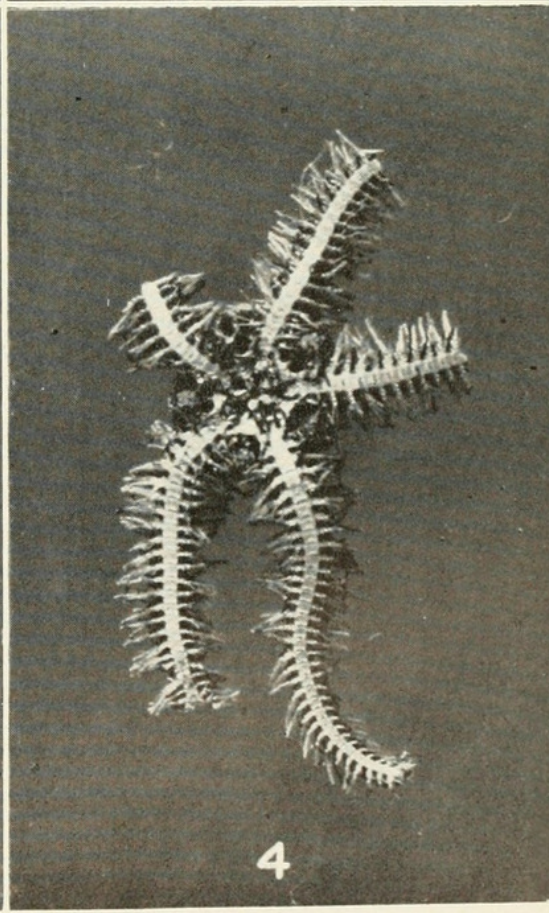
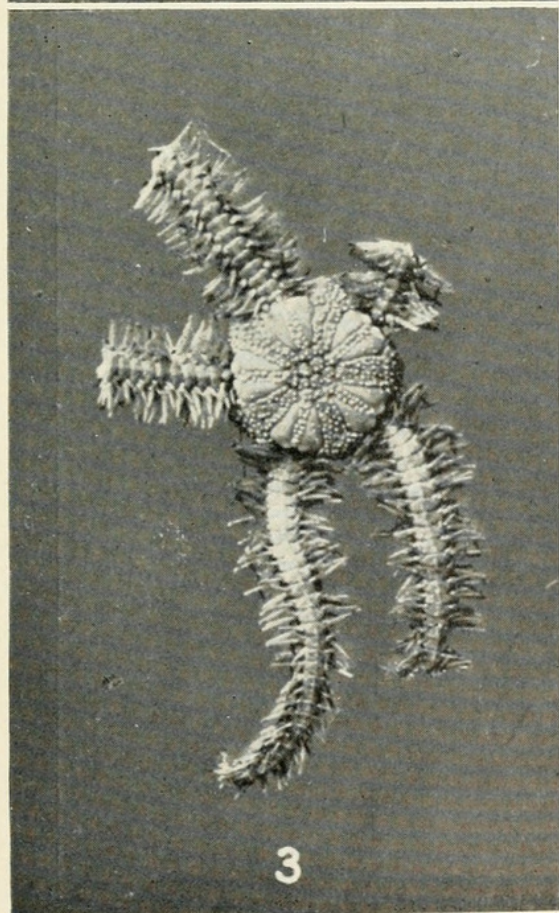
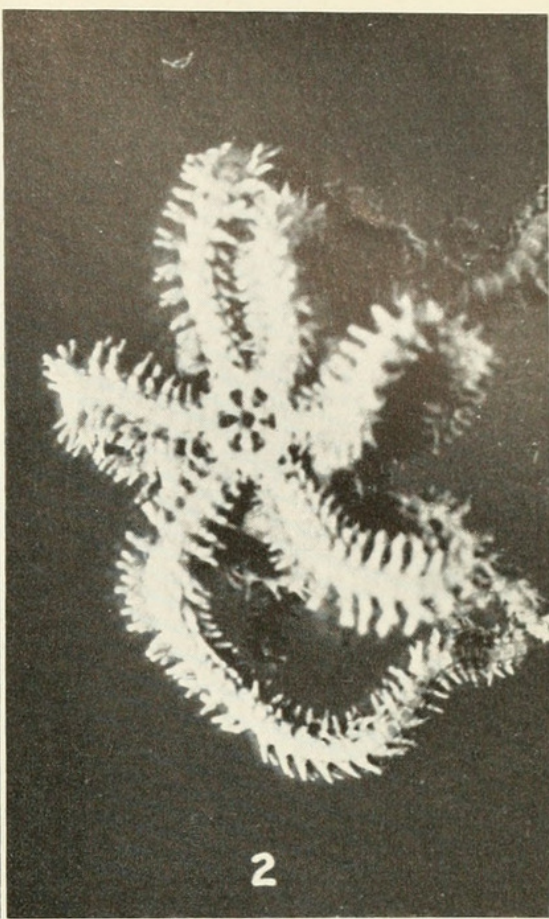
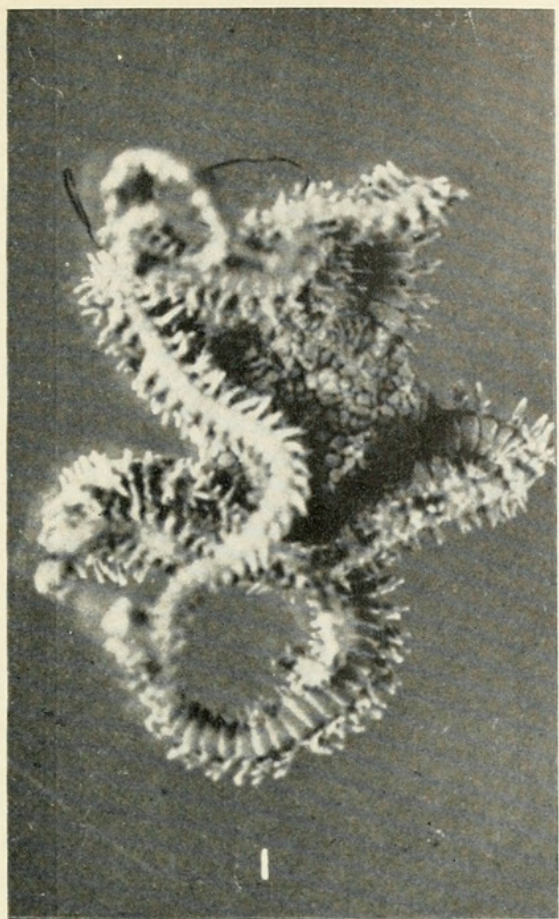
Description.—Disk very nearly 5 mm in diameter, hexamerous, slightly puffed out in the interradii and somewhat elevated, though irregularly, on the upper surface. The disk covering consists of

oval or circular, flat or slightly convex scales, scarcely or not at all overlapping, and 6 pairs of radial shields, which are flat and very small, but little larger than the largest of the disk scales; the two radial shields of each pair are separated from each other or are barely in contact distally. The interbrachial areas below are covered near the margin with thin, flat, rounded scales, like those of the upper surface but much more evidently overlapping; toward the mouth the scales are lacking and only a thin dark skin covers the area near the oral shields; there are no granules or spinelets on the disk, either above or below.

Arms 6, rather short, less than 15 mm long, slender at tip. Upper arm plates at base of arm at least twice as wide as long, very completely in contact but the proximal side is not quite so long as the distal; the lateral margins are very evenly rounded, with no hint of angles; near the tip of the arm the plates are much smaller and more nearly separated from each other, the proximal side having become a more or less truncated point, the general form of the plate being triangular.

Oral shields small, somewhat elliptical, wider than long, not so large as the first under arm plate. Adoral plates relatively very large, narrow and truncate in front of the oral shield, where they are in contact, much wider, and rounded, radially, where they meet and almost overlap in front of the first under arm plate. It is possible that these wide ends cover over and conceal the true first under arm plate and that the apparent first under arm plate is really the second. Oral papilla single, located on the small narrow oral plate; it is about twice as high as wide, flattened, and truncate or bluntly pointed at tip; apparently it is easily knocked off for several appear to be wanting; on only one jaw is the papilla present on both sides. Under arm plates, except the apparent first, which is smallest and evidently wider than long, squarish with rounded corners; the distal end is a trifle wider than the proximal and its margin is very slightly convex; lateral margins a very little concave; at the tip of the arm the plates are much longer than wide; they are more or less fully in contact throughout. Side arm plates low and small, meeting above near tip of arm, but not below; each carries a series of 4 arm spines, of which the uppermost and lowest are smallest and subequal; the other two are also subequal, but noticeably longer, about equaling the width of the arm; all the spines are blunt and obviously thicker at base than near tip; compared to the arm spines of *O. savignyi* they could be called slender. Tentacle scale single, flat, rounded, and relatively large, as usual in the genus.

Color of dry specimen very pale gray above, with a slight yellowish tinge, cream white below; a dusky blotch is visible on the upper side of most of the larger arm spines.



TWO NEW OPHIURANS.

- 1, 2. *Ophiactis notabilis*: Aboral (1) and oral (2) sides. $\times 4\frac{1}{2}$.
3, 4. *Ophiothrix platyactis*: Aboral (3) and oral (4) sides. $\times 2\frac{1}{2}$.



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