

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW OPHIURAN OF THE GENUS OPHIOPSILA FROM
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.

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Of the curious genus *Ophiopsila* ten species have been described from various localities in the warmer portions of the world. These ten species are: *O. aranea* Forbes, 1843, Mediterranean; *O. annulosa* Sars, 1857, Mediterranean; *O. riisei* Lütken, 1859, West Indies; *O. fulva* Lyman, 1878, West Indies; *O. pantherina* Kœhler, 1898, East Indies; *O. maculata* Verrill, 1899, West Indies; *O. paucispina* Kœhler, 1907, Mozambique; *O. hartmeyeri* Kœhler, 1913, West Indies; *O. polysticta* H. L. Clark, 1915, West Indies; and *O. polyacantha* H. L. Clark, 1915, East Indies.

The new species described below is the first to be reported from the Pacific coast of America.

***Ophiopsila californica*, sp. nov.**

The disk is 4.5 mm. in diameter; the arms are about 25 mm. long.

The dorsal surface of the disk is covered with very thin minute rounded overlapping scales, appearing naked except under close examination. The radial shields are very narrow, long-triangular, with the distal border upturned and swollen.

The upper arm plates are about as long as broad, the angles well rounded, the sides slightly convex. The arm spines are five in number, broad and flattened; the lowest is much the longest and narrowest, half again to twice as long as the next, which resembles it; the other three are short, broad, flat, rounded distally, the uppermost slightly the longest.

The oral shields are half again as broad as long, triangular, the angles, especially the lateral, rounded, the anterior sides slightly concave, the median third of the distal border occupied by a prominent posterior process.

The side mouth shields are very small and narrow, inconspicuous and difficult to make out.

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The outermost mouth papilla is large, broadly oval, slightly longer than broad; the next is similar, slightly smaller and so set on the mouth frame that the plane of its flattening is parallel with the median interradiial line; slightly beyond (proximal to) this, outside of and below it, deep in the mouth groove, is a large spiniform mouth papilla; beyond the second mouth papillæ and in line with them are two long thick blunt papillæ, which may be apical mouth papillæ, or lateral tooth papillæ, though they are very much larger than the other tooth papillæ. The tooth papillæ are few, rather large.

The tentacle scales are two, the inner very long, narrowly leaf like, distally overlapping that on the opposite side of the arm, the outer much shorter; on the first side arm plate the outer is about half as large as the inner, which is here relatively small; on the next three side arm plates the outer is about one third as large as the inner; on the outer part of the arm it is usually small, not much longer than broad, well rounded; distally it becomes proportionately longer again, and narrow.

The color is light yellowish brown, the disk with scattered small irregular spots and an interrupted border of sepia; the upper arm plates have a narrow median light line, and on either side of it an indistinct blotch of darker. On the upper surface of the arms there are traces of red bands narrowly bordered with black, about three upper arm plates in width, separated by somewhat broader bands of yellow mixed and clouded with black. Beneath the color is a uniform light yellow brown.

Type.—Cat. No. 38,662 U. S. N. M., from "Albatross" Station 2,944, off southern California, in 30 fathoms.



Clark, Austin Hobart. 1921. "A new ophiuran of the genus Ophiopsila from southern California." *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 34, 109–110.

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