

the Linnæan Society," *Ophiocoma didelphis*, from its opossum-like habit of carrying its young upon its back. I do not think that it can properly be relegated to any genus at present defined, but it will doubtless fall into its place when the Ophiurids shall have been revised.

The disk is about 20 mm. in diameter; and the arms are four times the diameter of the disk in length. The disk is uniformly coarsely granulated; the arm-shields, which are well defined through the membrane, are rounded in form and roughly granulated like the remainder of the disk. The character which at once distinguishes this species from all the others of the genus is, that the normal number of the arms is six or seven instead of five, which is almost universal in the class. The number of arms is subject to certain variation. I have seen from six to nine, but never fewer than six. The arm-spines are numerous and long. The general color of the disk and arms is a dull greenish brown.

A large proportion of the mature females, if not all of them, had a group of from three to ten or twelve young ones clinging to the upper surface of the disk by their arms. The largest of these were about a quarter the size of their mother; and they graduated down in size until the smallest had a diameter of less than 1.5 mm. across the disk. The largest and oldest of the progeny were always uppermost, farthest from the disk, the series decreasing in size downward, and the supply evidently coming from the genital clefts beneath. In several specimens which I examined, although by no means in all, there were groups of eggs and of young in still earlier stages, free in the body-cavity in the interbrachial spaces.

It thus seems that in this case the true marsupium is a portion of the body-cavity, and that the protection afforded by it is supplemented by the attachment of the young to the surface of the disk, maintained for some time after their extrusion or escape.