

Feather-stars belonging to the genus *Actinometra*, coloured dark purple, were numerous in the dredgings in from 8 to 12 fathoms. Dr. von Willemoes Suhm mentions that, in eighty specimens which he examined, he found the following animals living on them parasitically, and all coloured like them:—(1) an Ophiurid, (2) an *Alpheus*, (3) a *Myzostomum* (large species, two or three on about every tenth specimen), (4) an Aphroditacean Annelid, (5) an Isopod (*Anilocra*, found in the stomach of the *Actinometra*). The dark purple colouring matter of these *Actinometra* (*Actinometra strata*), unlike the colouring matters of most Comatulidæ, gives a very characteristic banded absorption spectrum, and has been named by Mr. Moseley "Antedonin." The same colouring matter was found in a Holothurian dredged in the South Indian Ocean from 1975 fathoms.¹

Cape York is a sort of emporium of savage weapons and ornaments. Pearl-shell gathering vessels ("pearl-shellers" as they are called) come to Somerset with crews which they have picked up at all the islands in the neighbourhood, from New Guinea, and from all over the Pacific, and they bring weapons and ornaments from all these places with them. Moreover, the Murray Islanders visit the port in their canoes, and bring bows and arrows, drums, and such things for barter. The water police stationed at Somerset deal in these curiosities, buying them up and selling them to passengers in the passing steamers, or to other visitors. Hence all kinds of savage weapons have found their way into English collections, with the label "Cape York," and the northern Australians have got credit for having learnt the use of the bow and arrow. Apparently, however, no Australian natives use the bow at all. Weapons from very remote places find their way to Cape York, and thus no doubt the first specimens of Admiralty Island javelins reached the English museums. Accurate determination of locality is of course essential to the interest of savage weapons. Surgeon Maclean of the Challenger had a large New Guinea drum of the crocodile form thrust upon his acceptance as a fee for visiting a patient on board one of the "pearl-shellers."

Dr. von Willemoes Suhm broke into five of the large Termite hills with pickaxes, and secured some females, but never more than one in each hill. He states that this *Termes* is different from the Indian forms, in which the female always resides in a larger hole at the bottom of the hill, and is two inches in length.

CAPE YORK TO THE ARROU (ARU) ISLANDS.

At 11 A.M. on the 8th September the ship left Somerset, Cape York, and proceeded to the westward through the Albany Pass, crossing over the tail of the bank from Sextant Rock, with the left extremity of Ida Island in line with the rocky point in Muddy Bay; 5 fathoms being the least depth obtained at high water. A course was then steered

¹ H. N. Moseley, On the Colouring Matters of Various Animals, and especially of Deep-Sea Forms, *Quart. Journ. Micr. Sci.*, N. S., vol. xvii. pp. 8-10, 1877.