

I found the skull of an Opossum (the Woolly Phalanger, *Cuscus*) on the mountain. The animal is common in the Banda Group. It occurs also in the Moluccas and elsewhere. Its occurrence on the Banda Islands seems most easily accounted for on the supposition that it escaped from confinement, having been brought to the islands at some time by Malay voyagers. Malays seem fond of keeping wild animals in confinement, or taming them. There were several such pet animals about the houses at Dobbo, at the time of our visit.

At the base of the Banda Volcano, on the shores of the island, a belt of living corals composed of a considerable variety of species is easily accessible at low tide. Of these corals the largest bulk is composed of massive *Astræids*, of which about ten different forms were collected. A massive *Porites* is also very abundant.

One species of "Brain Coral," and an *Astræa*, form huge masses, often as much as five feet in diameter, which have their bases attached to the bare basaltic rock of the shore. The tops of all of these coral masses are dead and flat and somewhat decayed; but on these dead tops fresh growth is now taking place, showing that slight oscillations of a foot at least have recently taken place in the level of the shore. The tops of the corals have been certainly killed by being left exposed above water.

Such slight oscillations are to be expected at the base of an active volcano. The present re-growth is due to the corals being now again submerged. The fact that these corals are to be seen growing on the bare rock itself, and not on *débris* of older corals, shows that the coral growth is very recent.

The Brain Coral grows in convex, mostly hemispherical, masses; the *Astræa* more in the form of vertically standing cylindrical masses, or masses which may be described as made up of a number of cylinders fused together. The masses of the *Astræa* are usually higher than those of the *Mæandrina* by about a foot, because they are able to grow in shallower water, and they for this reason range also higher up on the beach.

Many of the masses of this *Astræa* in the shallower water are left dry at each low-tide, and appear to suffer no more in consequence than do the common Sea-anemones of our English coasts, which are so closely allied to them. I have not seen any other species of coral thus growing where it is exposed at low tide. The "Brain Coral" apparently cannot survive exposure, and hence the tops of its masses have been killed during the change of depth of the water at about a foot below the height at which those of the *Astræa* have perished.

The common Mushroom Coral, so often to be seen as a