

both the generic names *Cenocrinus* and *Neocrinus* and described the type as *Pentacrinus asteria*, Linn., as Lütken had previously done.

It was clearly right to return to the specific name employed by Linnæus, although he was utterly at fault as regards the generic position of the type. But every writer on the subject, myself included, has used a wrong termination to the specific name. Linnæus wrote *Isis asteria*, which appears as *Isis asterias* in Müller's edition of the *Systema Naturæ* (Bd. ii. p. 742), published at Nuremberg in 1775; and this has been quoted by de Blainville and others. But when the species came to be referred to *Pentacrinus*, and the Linnean specific name was restored in place of *caput-Medusæ*, it should have been written *Pentacrinus asterius*, the expression *Pentacrinus asteria*, used by Lütken, Thomson, and myself being a false concord; for it is evident that the etymology of Linnæus's name *Isis asteria* is the adjective *ἀστέρειος*, starry, and not the noun *Asteria*, cat's eye.

I am indebted for this tardy correction to the critical acumen of my friend Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell. But as it did not reach me till all the plates illustrating the type and most of the morphological section of the Report had been printed off, I have been unable to avail myself of it as fully as I should like to have done.

It is somewhat curious that this species, which for the greater part of a century was the only known living representative of the genus, should be comparatively so little known at the present time. But one specimen of it was ever dredged by the "Blake," whereas *Pentacrinus decorus* was obtained by the hundred; and even stem-fragments were very rarely met with. One specimen was taken by Captain Cole of the telegraph steamer "Investigator," in 320 fathoms off Saba Island; and it is now in the zoological collection of the Natural History Museum. The agents of Mr. Damon of Weymouth have been successful in procuring several excellent specimens, which have been bought by different museums, but I have not been able to examine more than a very few of them.

The preceding description is based upon the characters presented by the following examples of the type:—*A.* Miller's original specimen from Nevis, now in the geological department of the Natural History Museum. *B.* One dry specimen and two others in spirit, all in the zoological department of the same museum. *C.* One dry specimen in the Hunterian collection of the Royal College of Surgeons. *D.* Two dry specimens obtained by Dr. Carpenter and Sir Wyville Thomson from Mr. Damon of Weymouth. I have not made a personal inspection of Guettard's original specimen, but when Mr. Percy Sladen was in Paris for the purpose of investigating the collection of Asterids in the museum, he was permitted by Prof. Perrier to examine it on my behalf; and from the notes of its characters which he was kind enough to give me, together with the original figures of Guettard, I have no doubt that it is a fairly normal specimen of the type.

*Pentacrinus asterius* is much more robust than any of the other recent species of the genus, none of which have such wide stem-joints, though these are not so large as in some fossil species. The stem also seems to grow to a greater length than that of any other recent