

Genus 2. *Atelectrinus*, P. H. Carpenter, 1881.

1869. *Antedon*, Pourtalès (*pars*), Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1869, vol. i. No. 11, p. 356.
 1878. *Antedon*, Pourtalès (*pars*), Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1878, vol. v. No. 9, p. 214.
 1881. *Atelectrinus*, P. H. Carpenter, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1881, vol. ix. No. 4, p. 16.
 1882. *Atelectrinus*, P. H. Carpenter, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.), 1882, vol. xvi. p. 488.

Definition.—Centro-dorsal acorn-shaped, and bearing five vertical double rows of cirrus-sockets, those of each row alternating with one another, and with those of adjoining rows. They have horseshoe-shaped rims, the arches of which are directed upwards while the two ends slant downwards and outwards. Radials separated from the centro-dorsal by a complete circlet of basals. The first six or more brachials bear no pinnules.

Remarks.—The first example of this genus which was actually obtained was dredged by Pourtalès¹ in 1869 off Cojima on the coast of Cuba. Two small ten-armed Comatulæ were brought up from a depth of 450 fathoms, and were briefly described by Pourtalès under the name of *Antedon cubensis*. But the description given by him only applies to the larger and more perfect specimen, which differs considerably from the smaller and much mutilated one. He seems to have recognised that the two were different, for in his description² of the Crinoids obtained by the “Blake” expedition of 1877–78 he wrote as follows:—“To this species (*i.e.*, *Antedon cubensis*) I refer provisionally two specimens very much mutilated, having lost the cirrhi and the arms, differing somewhat from my type specimen, but possibly the differences may be due to age.” He then described an individual dredged at Station 43 (“Blake”) in 339 fathoms, to which I shall refer directly, and added that a smaller and equally mutilated one had been previously dredged by himself in 450 fathoms near Havana.

These two specimens are quite different from the type of *Antedon cubensis*, and also, though in a less degree, from one another. Not only are the first radials visible, and the second but little shorter than broad, as was mentioned by Pourtalès, but the first radials are separated from the acorn-shaped centro-dorsal by a complete circlet of basals, and there are no pinnules upon any of the first six arm-joints, which are the only ones preserved. An equally mutilated specimen of Pourtalès' second type was dredged by the Challenger (1873) in 350 fathoms, off Barra Grande (Pl. VI. fig. 7); seven more perfect ones, making nine in all, were obtained off Nevis, St. Lucia, and Granada, during the cruise of the “Blake” in 1878–79, between 291 and 422 fathoms; while a single example of a third species (Pl. VI. fig. 5) was dredged by the Challenger in the neighbourhood of Fiji, in the year 1874.

These eleven individuals, representing three different species, are distinguished from all other living Comatulæ by certain very definite morphological peculiarities, which impart an interest to this type second only to that of the archaic *Thaumatocrinus*. Its

¹ Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl., 1869, vol. i. No. 11, p. 356.

² *Ibid.*, 1878, vol. v. No. 9, p. 214.