

for them; and the identity of his *Alecto carinata* with the *Comatula carinata* from Mauritius, which was described by Lamarck<sup>1</sup> in the following year must therefore remain uncertain. Lamarck referred to *Antedon gorgonia*, de Fréminville, as a possible synonym of his species, and from this one may perhaps conclude that he had been unable to get access to de Fréminville's type. We have seen that he had ignored de Fréminville's generic name *Antedon*, which had five years' precedence over *Comatula*, and that his definition of this latter type differed but little from that of *Antedon* which had been previously given by de Fréminville. But the latter author gave no figure nor formal description of *Antedon gorgonia* as distinguished from his definition of the genus; and if Lamarck was unable to see de Fréminville's original specimen we can understand his uncertainty respecting the possible identity of *Comatula carinata* and *Antedon gorgonia*.

Lamarck's species was redescribed by Müller, and his diagnosis of it was copied by Dujardin and Hupé in 1862. A few years afterwards Dr. Lütken gave the MS. name *Antedon braziliensis* to a type which had been obtained at Rio Janeiro and has since proved to be very abundant on the Brazilian coast at the Abrolhos Islands and also at Bahia. Examples of it with Lütken's name attached were distributed to various museums, and in 1867 the name *Antedon braziliensis* appeared in a comparative list of the Echinoderms from the east and west coasts of Tropical America which was drawn up by Verrill.<sup>2</sup> The same author<sup>3</sup> in the following year doubtfully referred to *Antedon dübenii*, Böhlische, another example of this type from the Brazilian coast, which he regarded, however, as different both from *Antedon braziliensis*, Lütken, MS., and from the *Antedon carinata* of Mauritius and Zanzibar. The difference, however, seems to be chiefly one of coloration, and it is now practically certain that Verrill's and Lütken's types alike are identical with the species from the Indian Ocean. Pourtalès<sup>4</sup> wrote as follows in 1878:—"A species common on the coast of Brazil answers to the description of the *Comatula carinata* Lamk. (Leach sp.). It is quoted as from Mauritius, and the museum has specimens from Zanzibar differing only in some minor details from the Brazilian ones." Rathbun,<sup>5</sup> writing a few months later, referred to the Brazilian form as *Antedon carinatus* (?), and made some comparisons between it and some examples from Zanzibar, concluding with the remark that "the study of a large series of specimens would probably serve to unite the Brazilian with the East African species beyond all doubt."

I was fortunately able to carry out this study in the autumn of 1880, when a careful examination of the material which I found in several continental museums, from a con-

<sup>1</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 534.

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Connect. Acad. Arts and Sci.*, 1867, vol. i. p. 341.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 365.

<sup>4</sup> Reports on the dredging operations of the U.S. Coast Survey Steamer "Blake." Corals and Crinoids, *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 1879, vol. v. No. 9, p. 214.

<sup>5</sup> A list of Brazilian Echinoderms with Notes on their Distribution, &c., *Trans. Connect. Acad.*, 1879, vol. v. p. 156.