

HALODEIMA DICORONA n. sp.

2 specimens, Hong Kong 17-1-31.

The two specimens at hand measure 7 cm. in length, but one of them is lacking the posterior end. The colour is reddish brown with some few black spots on the dorsal side. The tube-feet are scattered all over the body. Anal teeth are absent. The calcareous ring consists of 10 pieces and has insertions for 20 tentacles. There is one polian vesicle, which in the complete specimen measures 3 cm., in the other 6 cm. in length. The stone-canal is long and supplied with a large spherical madreporite. It ends free in the body-cavity. The alimentary canal is destroyed in both specimens, but the mesenteries are fastened to the body-wall in the mid-dorsal, the left dorsal, and the right ventral interambulacra.

The calcareous deposits consist of two different sorts of tables, buttons and rods in the pedicels. The more numerous sort of tables (figure V, 1-2) are rather small and have a usually smooth disk with 10-12 holes, and a

large crown with eight teeth. There is but one transverse beam. Rather many of these tables have the basal plate reduced to a little square plate with but four holes (figure V, 3). The other sort of tables is more rare, on an average there may be three of the first form to every one of the latter. These tables are about one and a half times as large as the first. They have 9-10 holes in the basal plate and a rather high and slender spire with a little crown. The crown consists either of four large irregular teeth or of a varying number of small spines. The spire has usually two transverse beams.

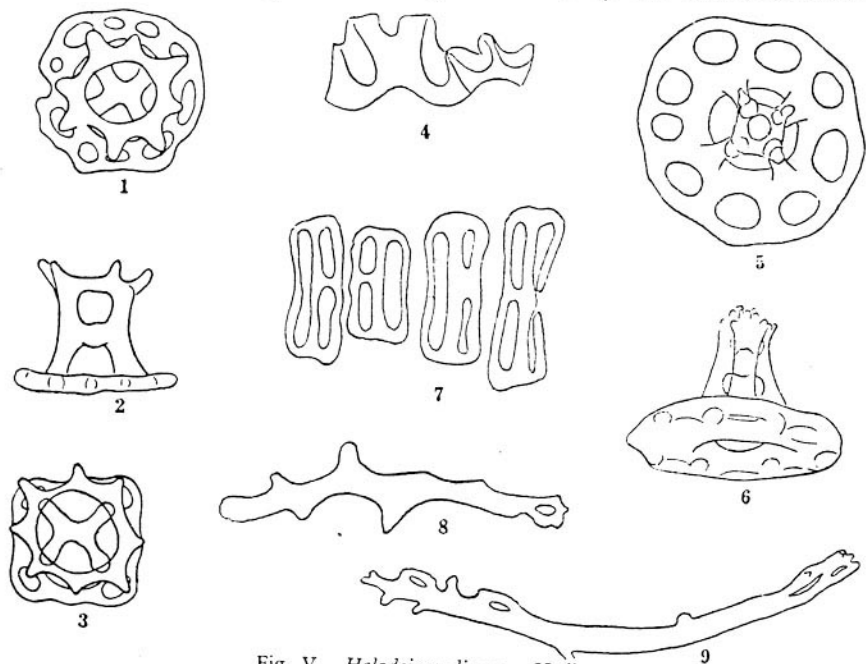


Fig. V. *Halodeima dicorona* Hedging.

1-2 Small tables.
4 Calcareous ring.
7 Buttons.

3 Small table with four-holed basal plate.
5-6 Large tables.
8-9 Rods from tubefeet.

1-3 and 5-9 465/1, 4 8/1

The buttons are rather characteristic, having normally three holes, one long and two short ones (Figure V, 7). They may now and then be more or less reduced, forming then often a little double-anchor. In the tubefeet there are some large spiny and perforate rods (Figure V, 8-9) but in the tentacles no calcareous deposits are found.

This species does not seem to be closely related to any of the other *Halodeima*-species. The shape of the tables and the buttons is very characteristic and make the species easily recognisable.

There is a third specimen from Hong Kong which most probably may be referred to this species, but it differs from the type-specimens in having small papillæ on the dorsal side, a feature which may ultimately show to be of no separating value, as the strong contraction of the type-specimens may have hidden the presence of such papillæ.