

Bunkers Bay, shallow water, January, 1930. E. W. Bennett leg. "On a patch of sand; the water was rather stagnant though by no means land-locked; there were large masses of *Cymodocea* leaves cast up on the sand and quantities rolling backwards and forwards in the ripple in a semi-decomposed state. The water was distinctly warm due not only to its shallowness and stagnation but also probably in part to decomposition" (E. W. B.)
1 specimen.

South Australia: Brighton Beach, May, 1923. 1 small strongly contracted specimen, probably adult. Loan from South Australian Museum.

HOLOTHURIA IMPATIENS

Fistularia impatiens FORSKÅL, 1775. Descr. Anim., p. 121.

Holothuria impatiens GMELIN, 1788. Linn. Syst. Nat. ed. XIII, 1, p. 3142.

This long-known tropicopolitan species is found on the coasts of northern Australia at many points. It is common on the east coast as far south at least as Low Isles and probably much further; on the west coast, it is recorded from two points in Shark Bay. We did not find it at Lord Howe Island or at Darwin but on the coast of the Coburg Peninsula, at Coral Bay, Port Essington, and at Allaru Island to the west, several typical specimens were taken, and at Cape Leveque and at Broome, it is a common holothurian and grows to a large size. The largest specimen preserved is about 175 mm. long by 35 mm. in diameter. All of this material from northern Australia is the typical variegated gray and brownish form, rather handsomely variegated when young but becoming dingy and more nearly unicolor when very large. The habitat is under rock fragments near low tide mark and several specimens are often found together.

At False Cape Bossut, southwest of Broome, a notable holothurian was taken in September, 1929, which is described in my notes thus: "Dull gray purple (very dark) with abruptly yellow papillae. A remarkable species. Very handsome." Examination of the calcareous particles and comparison with normal specimens of *impatiens* show that it is simply a striking color form of that species. It was found also in 1913, at Mer, Murray Islands, northern end of the Barrier Reef and in my Torres Strait Report (1921, p. 179) I say: "In some individuals from Mer the papillae are all yellow in handsome contrast with the purplish-

brown background." At that time it seemed to me best not to give the species a name but in view of its occurrence on the northwest coast and the ease with which it can be recognized, I have changed my mind and decided to name this conspicuous holothurian, *Holothuria impatiens* var. *bicolor*. This specimen (M. C. Z. No. 1521) from False Cape Bossut has retained its original coloration very well and may be considered the type. It is interesting how much like the Lord Howe specimens of *monocaria*, this form of *impatiens* is at first sight.

Only a few examples of *impatiens* were preserved, so the following are all that are in the collection at hand.

Northern Territory: Coburg Peninsula, Port Essington, Coral Bay, May 21, 1932. 2 large adults.

Western Australia: Augustus Island, October, 1933. Captain Berardius K. Bardwell leg. 1 adult and 1 young.

Cape Leveque, August, 1929. 1 small adult.

Broome, August, 1929. 2 adults.

False Cape Bossut, September, 1929. 1 adult, the holotype of variety *bicolor*.