

***Holothuria marenzelleri* Ludwig var. *théeli* var. nov.**

*Holothuria marenzelleri* var. ? Théel, 1886a, p. 7.

*Holothuria marenzelleri* Ludwig, 1887, p. 2, pl. 2, fig. 12; Panning, 1934, II, p. 47, fig. 41 (copy of Ludwig's figure).

*Diagnosis*: Large robust form (up to 20 cm. long) with 20 large bushy tentacles; ventral side covered by numerous cylindrical feet; dorsal side with numerous small papillae. Single free stone canal.

Spicules in young individuals short spectacle-shaped rods, often developed as asymmetrical or symmetrical plates; surface smooth; margin scalloped. In larger individuals the spicules change into larger rods with more or less rough surface and numerous holes in the ends and along the margins. Color dark brown.

*Type*: M. C. Z. cat. no. 665. Ludwig's types of the typical form from the Nicobars are probably in Germany.

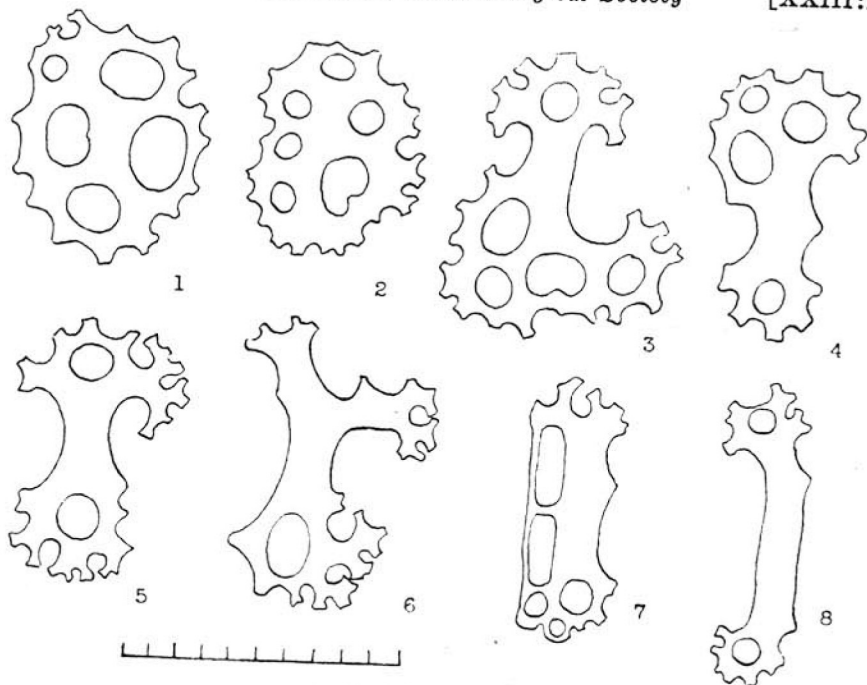
*Type Locality*: Galápagos Islands.

*General Distribution*: According to Panning (chart, p. 44) taken only in the Galápagos Islands.

*Local Range*: Nine specimens ranging from small to large, from Tower Island and Hood Island, Galápagos (*Arcturus*).

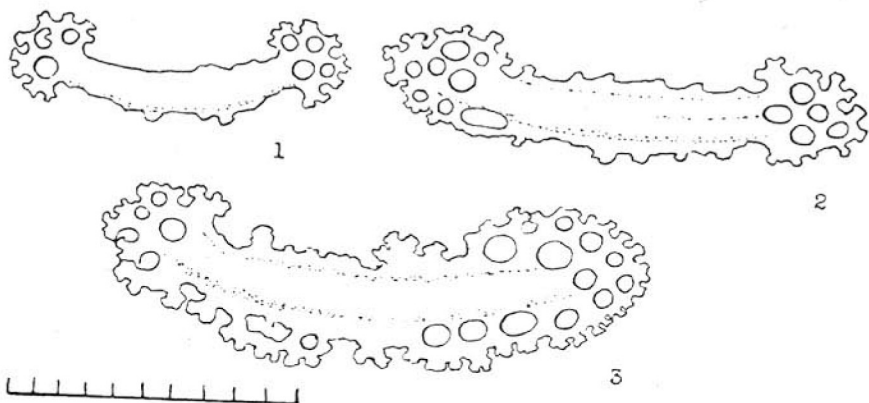
*Remarks*: Ludwig gives no figures of the spicules in his species from the Nicobars and his description may equally well refer to *H. erinaceus* Semper—a widespread form in the East Indies. Théel was the first to express his doubt whether the Galápagos specimens were identical with the typical *H. marenzelleri*.

Only examination of the types of *H. marenzelleri*, or of specimens from Nankauri, Nicobars, can decide whether two species are concealed under one name or not. Apparently there are no records of *H. marenzelleri* occurring between the Galápagos Islands and the Malay Archipelago.



Text-figure 5.

*Holothuria marenzelleri* Ludwig var. *théli* var. nov. 1-8, Typical smooth plates and rods from young individuals from Galápagos. Scale 1/100 mm.



Text-figure 6.

*Holothuria marenzelleri* Ludwig var. *théli* var. nov. 1-3, Typical rods with numerous holes and rough surface from large individuals from same locality as the small individuals figured above. Scale 1/100 mm.

It is with great hesitation that the large individuals with rather different spicules are referred to *H. marenzelleri* var. *théli*. But it is quite possible that the small smooth spicules are completely reduced and the spicules in the older individuals become large and rough.