

2. *Holothuria neozelanica* n. sp.

2 Miles E. of North Cape; 55 fms. 2/1. 1915. 1 specimen.

The specimen, which is very strongly contracted, measures 10.5 cm in length and ca. 5 cm in breadth. It is of a dirty grayish

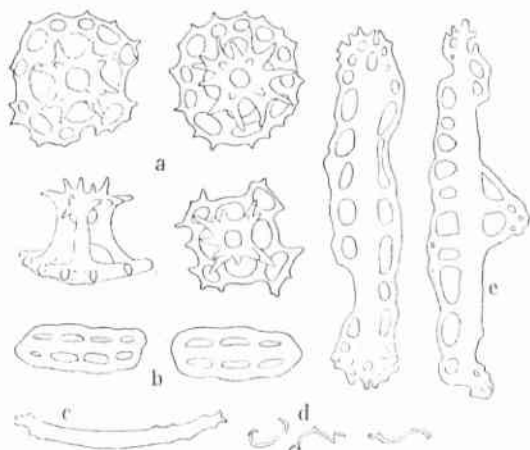


Fig. 23. Calcareous deposits of *Holothuria neozelanica*. a. Tables, from above and in side view; b, buttons; c, rod from tentacle; d, rods from the finer branches of the tentacles; e, spicules of tubefeet. a—b,  $\times 265$ ; c—e,  $\times 100$ .

colour, with indistinct small, white spots irregularly scattered. Ventral side hardly distinguishable. Suckers small, yellow, not serially arranged, scattered all over the body, only slightly more numerous on the ventral side. Apparently no papillae on the dorsal side. Tentacles only 16, of medium size. Only 1 Polian vesicle; stone canals in a small bundle. Cuvierian organs present.

Calcareous deposits tables and buttons; both sorts very numerous, forming a close layer in the whole of the body. The tables (Fig. 23,a) are thorny along the edge of the disk; the crown carries some twelve spines. The buttons (Fig. 23,b) smooth, with generally 6—8 holes. All sorts of irregularities in the buttons rather common. The spicules of the tubefeet rods with bilaterally arranged holes (Fig. 23,e). The larger spicules of the tentacles coarse, a

little spinous, slightly curved rods (Fig. 23.c); those of the finer branches quite irregular, thin, scarcely branched rods (Fig. 23.d).

Although the calcareous bodies are not of a very characteristic type, this species is rather unique through the exceptional number — 16 — of the tentacles, 18 (17) being otherwise the lowest number in the species hitherto known, with the sole exception of *Holothuria Heilprini* Ives from the Gulf of Mexico<sup>1)</sup> which is stated to have only 10 tentacles, and the rather problematical *Ananus holothurioides* Sluiter<sup>2)</sup>, which is stated to have 13 tentacles. Of course, it is impossible to judge from the single specimen in hand whether the number of tentacles is constantly 16 in this species; but this number is, in any case, so unusually low that it is very probably not simply a variation of the usual number 20, but really a specific character of this form.