

Isocrinid crinoids from the late Cenozoic of Jamaica

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Eight species of isocrinines have been documented from the Lower Cretaceous to Pleistocene of Jamaica. New finds include a second specimen of a Miocene species from central north Jamaica, previously regarded as *Diplocrinus* sp. but reclassified as *Teliocrinus?* sp. herein. Extant *Teliocrinus* is limited to the Indian Ocean, although Miocene specimens have been recorded from Japan, indicating a wider distribution during the Neogene. One locality in the early Pleistocene Manchioneal Formation of eastern Jamaica has yielded three species of isocrinine, *Cenocrinus asterius* (Linné), *Diplocrinus maclearanus* (Thomson) and *Neocrinus decorus* Thomson. These occur in association with the bourgueticrinine *Democrinus* sp. or *Monachocrinus* sp. These taxa are all extant and suggest a minimum depositional depth for the Manchioneal Formation at this locality of about 180 m. This early Pleistocene fauna represents the most diverse assemblage of fossil crinoids documented from the Antillean region.

Huit espèces d'isocrinines de la période du Crétacé inférieur au Pléistocène de la Jamaïque ont été documentées. Les nouvelles découvertes comprennent un deuxième spécimen d'une espèce du Miocène du nord central de la Jamaïque, auparavant considérée comme l'espèce *Diplocrinus*, mais reclassifiée en tant que *Teliocrinus?* aux présentes. Le *Teliocrinus* existant est limité à l'océan Indien, même si on a relevé des spécimens du Miocène au Japon, ce qui est révélateur d'une distribution plus répandue au cours du Néogène. Un emplacement de la formation de Manchioneal du Pléistocène inférieur dans l'est de la Jamaïque a livré trois espèces d'isocrinines : le *Cenocrinus asterius* (Linné), le *Diplocrinus maclearanus* (Thomson) et le *Neocrinus decorus* (Thomson). Ceux-ci sont présents en association avec les bourgueticrinines *Democrinus* ou *Monachocrinus*. Ces taxons sont tous existants et ils permettent de supposer que la formation de Manchioneal aurait une profondeur minimale de sédimentation d'environ 180 m à cet endroit. Cette faune du Pléistocène inférieur représente l'assemblage le plus diversifié de crinoïdes fossiles documentés dans la région des Antilles.

[Traduit par la rédaction]

INTRODUCTION

Few fossil crinoids are known from Jamaica; nevertheless, they are probably the best known fauna of this group from the Antillean islands. Most of the described taxa are based on just one or a few specimens. Of the eight species hitherto recognized (Table 1), five are isocrinines; all of these are recorded from a single columnal or pluricolumnal only and each from a different locality and horizon. It is therefore considered significant to report further specimens from two of these horizons, generally showing superior preservation to those originally described. The discovery of a moderately rich crinoid locality in the early Pleistocene of eastern Jamaica, including three species of isocrinine and a bourgueticrinine, represents the first site on the island to yield more than one species of crinoid and has produced more specimens than all of the other Cenozoic sites combined.

Terminology of the crinoid stem used herein follows Moore *et al.* (1968), Roux (1977), Ubaghs (1978) and Webster (1974). The classification of articulate crinoids follows Simms (1988). The protocol of open nomenclature follows Bengtson (1988). The specimens described herein are deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH) and the Florida Museum of Natural History (UF).

SYSTEMATIC PALEONTOLOGY

Class Crinoidea J.S. Miller, 1821
Subclass Articulata von Zittel, 1879
Order Isocrinida Sieverts-Doreck, 1952
Suborder Isocrinina Gislén, 1924
Family Isocrinidae Gislén, 1924

Genus *Neocrinus* Thomson, 1864

***Neocrinus decorus* Thomson, 1864**

Figure 2.1, 2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.9-2.11

Material: Twelve columnals and pluricolumnals, BMNH EE 5052, EE 5053, EE 5057[2], EE 5060, EE 5062 (Fig. 2.7, 2.10, 2.11), EE 5064 (Fig. 2.1, 2.4), EE 5065[2] (Fig. 2.2, 2.6), EE 5065[3] (Fig. 2.9), EE 5067-EE 5070.

Occurrence: Cliffs and associated fallen blocks exposed near the mouth of the Christmas River, parish of Portland, eastern Jamaica (Fig. 1.1; GR 798 421, old 1:50,000 series, sheet M, 'Port Antonio'). Upper Coastal Group, Manchioneal Formation. Early Pleistocene.

Table 1. Fossil crinoids of Jamaica (after Donovan, 1989; Donovan *et al.*, 1993, 1994; Dixon *et al.*, 1994). * = discussed herein.

Order ISOCRINIDA	
Suborder COMATULIDINA	
Incertae familiae	
Brachial or pinnular ossicle	late Oligocene
Brachial ossicles indet.	late Cretaceous
Suborder ISOCRININA	
Family ISOCRINIDAE	
* <i>Neocrinus decorus</i> Thomson	early Pleistocene
Family CAINOCRINIDAE	
* <i>Teliocrinus?</i> sp.	early Miocene
Family ISSELICRINIDAE	
<i>Austinocrinus</i> sp.	early Aptian
cf. <i>Cenocrinus asterius</i> (Linné)	early Pleistocene
* <i>Cenocrinus asterius</i> (Linné)	early Pleistocene
* <i>Diplocrinus maclearanus</i> (Thomson)	early Pleistocene
<i>Isselicrinus cubensis?</i> (Valette)	early Eocene
Incertae familiae	
Isocrinid sp. indet.	middle Eocene
Suborder BOURGUETICRININA	
Family BATHYCRINIDAE	
* <i>Democrinus</i> sp. or <i>Monachocrinus</i> sp.	early Pleistocene
Order ROVEACRINIDA	
Family SACCOCOMIDAE	
<i>Applinocrinus cretacea</i> (Bather)	Maastrichtian

Description: For a description of the stem of extant *N. decorus*, see Donovan (1984).

Remarks: The Pleistocene columnals illustrated herein compare closely with those of extant *N. decorus* (for example, compare Fig. 2.1, 2.4 herein with Roux, 1977, figs. 7C, 19; Donovan, 1984, pl. 74, fig. 2). Even though the trabeculae are encrusted by microspar, the rectilinear stereom of the areola petals is identical to that of living examples (compare Fig. 2.6 with Roux, 1977, fig. 5A; Donovan, 1984, pl. 75, fig. 7). The symplectial facet of *N. decorus* is easily discerned from those of *Diplocrinus maclearanus* and *Cenocrinus decorus* (see below) by its distinctive, teardrop-shaped areola petals. Extant *N. decorus* occurs in the tropical western Atlantic, including off Jamaica (Meyer *et al.*, 1978, p. 425).

The cliffs in the Manchioneal Formation near the mouth of the Christmas River are only the second moderately rich, crinoid-bearing succession to be identified from the Jamaican rock record, the fauna consisting of *Cenocrinus asterius* (Linné), *Diplocrinus maclearanus* (Thomson), *Neocrinus decorus* and *Democrinus* sp. or *Monachocrinus* sp. (see below). The first such locality, at San San Bay, parish of Portland (Robinson, 1969), is in the same unit, but is unfortunately now concealed by a retaining wall (Donovan, 1989). Columnals were quite common at San San Bay (Robinson, 1969, 1971), but the taxonomic diversity of this locality is unknown. The present author and co-workers have examined the Manchioneal Formation for brachiopods at a number of localities, but have not previously noted associated crinoids. The contact with the underlying Bowden

Formation (Pliocene) is apparent at Christmas River, indicating that the crinoid-rich beds are low in the Manchioneal Formation. Many of the specimens from Christmas River have been collected from fallen blocks.

Evidence that pluricolumnals may have lain on the seafloor for some time between death and final burial is given by an epifaunal, serpulid worm tube (Fig. 2.11). This encrusts two adjacent columnals, which presumably would have been impracticable when the crinoid was alive due to the flexibility of the column (compare with Donovan, 1993, fig. 2C). Although massive encrusting epibionts are not uncommon on Paleozoic crinoids (Meyer and Ausich, 1983), presumably immobilizing the column in the region of attachment, the Pleistocene specimen is small and fragile. It thus suggests that the column was not capable of flexure (=dead) when encrusted.

Family Cainocrinidae Simms, 1988

Genus *Teliocrinus* Döderlein, 1912

Teliocrinus? sp.

Figure 3

1993 *Diplocrinus* sp., Donovan *et al.*, pp. 126-127, fig. 4.

Material: Two internodal columnals, UF 67000 (Fig. 3) and UF 38939 (Donovan *et al.*, 1993, fig. 4).

Occurrence: Disused quarry about 5 km west of Duncans police station, on the southern side of the main A1 (north coast) road, parish of Trelawny, central north Jamaica (Fig. 1.2; ap-

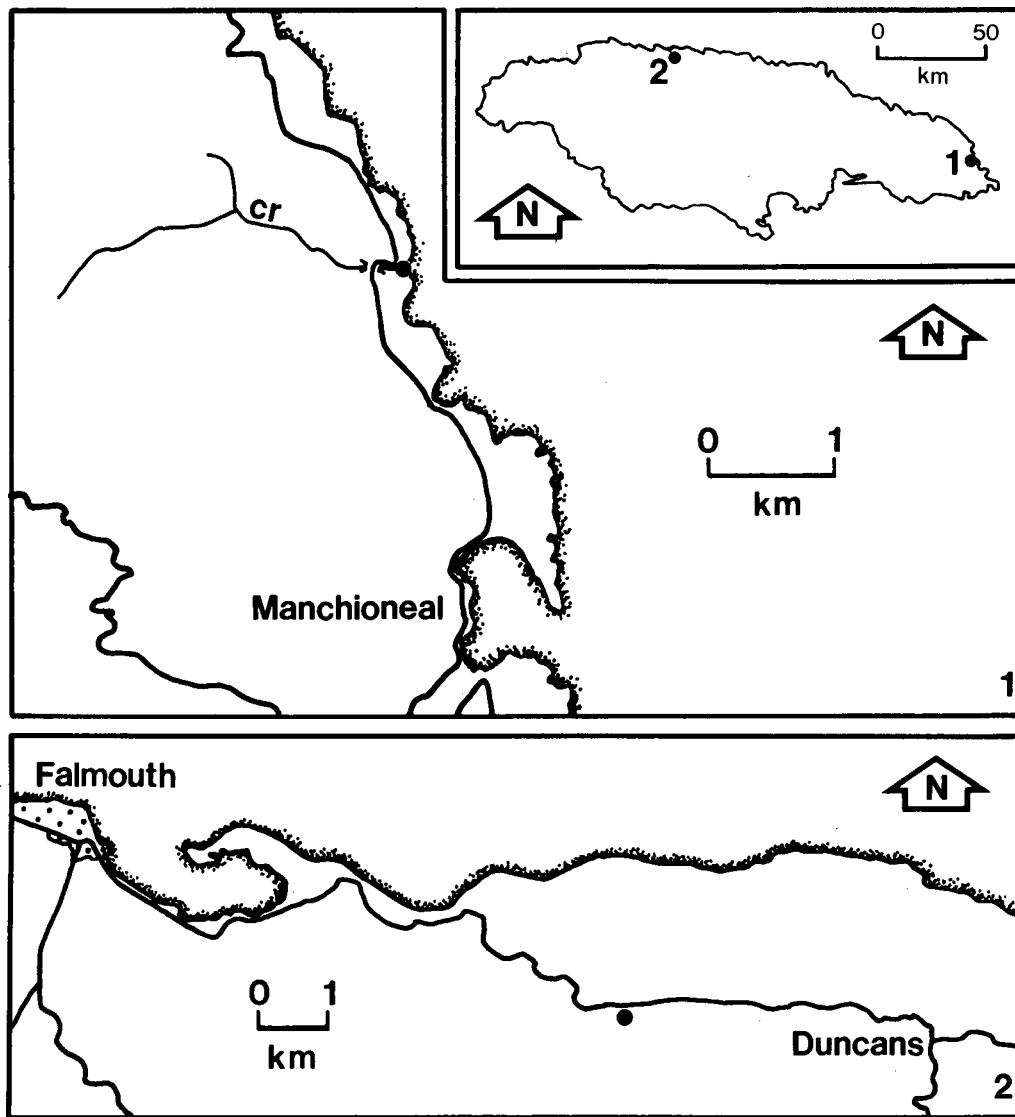


Fig. 1. Locality maps. The inset map of Jamaica shows the positions of main maps (1) and (2). (1) Christmas River area, eastern Jamaica (rivers other than the Christmas River are not shown for simplicity). (2) Duncans-Falmouth area, central north Jamaica. Key: filled circles = crinoid localities, stippled line = coast, thick lines = main roads, thin line marked cr = Christmas River.

proximate GR 349 570, old 1:50,000 series, sheet C, 'Montego Bay-Falmouth'). Sign Member(?), Montpelier Formation, White Limestone Group. Miocene, probably early Miocene (E. Robinson, personal communication).

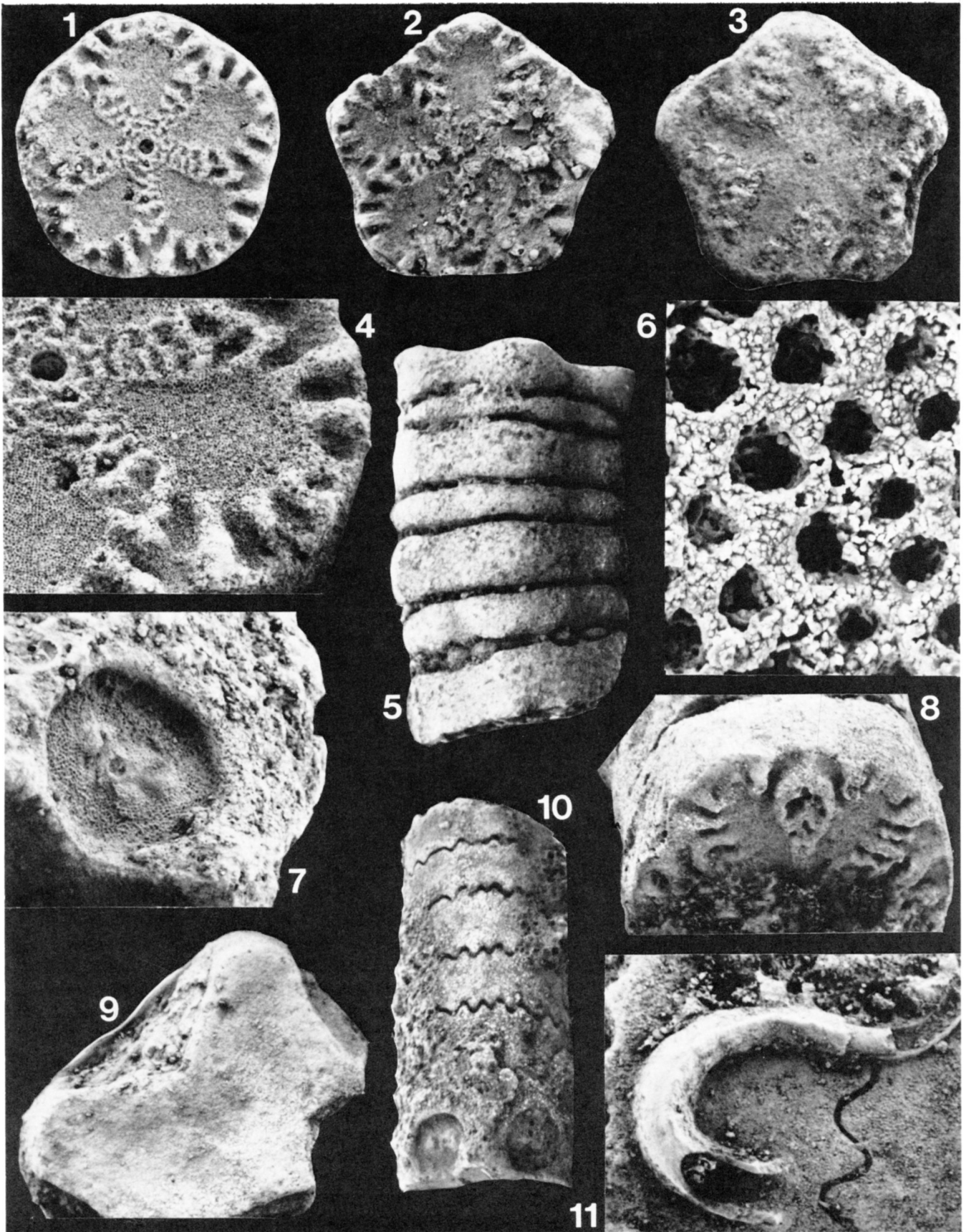
Description: (Revised after Donovan *et al.*, 1993). Columnal outline weakly pentastellate with strongly rounded angles. Axial canal small, central and circular in outline. Articulation symplectial, arranged about five slender, elongate, lensoid areola petals that correspond to the columnal angles. Areola petals separate, except adjacent to lumen, and open. Crenulae perpendicular to subperpendicular to circumference of areola petals. Crenulae short, unbranched, 6 to 7 culmina along each side of the areola petals, with crenulae of adjacent petals separate. Triangular naked zones occur adjacent to the circumference in interpetaloid zones. Latus gently convex and unsculptured.

Dimensions: UF 67000 - columnal height (KH) = ca. 1.5 mm, columnal diameter (KD) = 6 mm, facet diameter = 5.8 mm,

lumen diameter = 0.35 mm; UF 38939 - KH = 1.6 mm, KD = 5.7 mm.

Remarks: This Miocene species was originally described on the basis of UF 38939 (Donovan *et al.*, 1993), a broken internodal. UF 67000 is better preserved (Fig. 3), being unbroken, with the lumen exposed and at least some petals reasonably clean (Fig. 3.3). The areola petals are now recognized to be open, not closed as was originally reported; the crenulae of adjacent petals are apparently separate (Fig. 3.1, 3.3) (Donovan *et al.*, 1993).

The Miocene columnals compare reasonably well with those of extant species of *Diplocrinus*, such as *D. maclearanus*, *D. alternicirrus* and *D. wyvillethomsoni* (Roux, 1977; Macurda and Roux, 1981), conspicuous similarities include the slender, elongate, open petals. The triangular naked zone at the circumference in the interpetaloid zones are similar to those in *D. alternicirrus* (Roux, 1977, figs. 7F, 16) and *D. maclearanus* (Macurda and Roux, 1981, pl. 15.4-15.7). However, all three



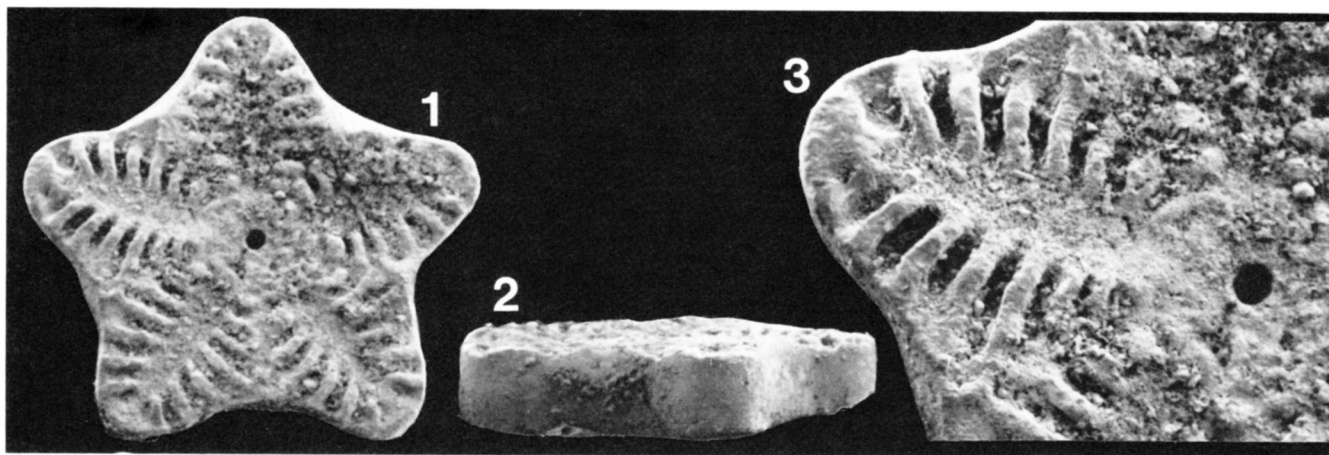


Fig. 3. *Teliocrinus?* sp. from the Miocene of Jamaica, UF 67000. (1) Articular facet, x9. (2) Lateral view, x9. (3) Detail of an areola petal, x18. Scanning electron micrographs of specimens coated with 60% gold-palladium.

Recent species differ from the fossil in that the culmina are relatively narrower (and are thus more plentiful) in the latter, whereas culmina of adjacent petals remain separate, that is, there is an interpetaloid groove. The three extant species mentioned above have only 4 to 5 culmina along each side of the areola petals, but the Miocene species has 6 to 7 (Fig. 3.1, 3.3; Donovan *et al.*, 1993, fig. 4). As discussed above, the distinguishing features of *Diplocrinus* include the lanceolate areola shape, the open crenularium with less than 8 crenulae in each petaloid zone, and an undifferentiated interpetaloid zone without an interpetaloid groove (Roux, 1977, table 2). The presence of more than 10 culmina per petal and interpetaloid grooves in the Jamaican specimen suggests that this taxon is closer to *Teliocrinus* Döderlein, a genus otherwise only known from the Recent of the Indian Ocean (Roux, 1977, table 1; Rasmussen, 1978, p. T860) and the Miocene of Japan (Oji, 1990). Comparison with the symplectial articulations of the type species, *T. springeri* A.H. Clark, 1909, shows them to be similar (Roux, 1977, figs. 7E, 15). This perhaps suggests that the Jamaican fossil specimens represent a new species of *Teliocrinus*, although this generic identification is not yet certain. It is desirable that more is known of the skeleton of the Jamaican species before it is formally named. Dr. T.K. Baumiller (written communication) has also noted a similarity between the Jamaican species and *Isocrinus* sp. from the Miocene of Japan (Oji, 1990, fig. 6.7, 6.8).

Oji (1990) noted that extant *Teliocrinus* is limited to the tropical Indian Ocean, but it did extend into the western Pacific during the Miocene. If the present identification is correct, in the Miocene its range also extended into the Caribbean. This was facilitated by the absence of the Central American land bridge, which started to interrupt deep water circulation from

the Pacific during the Miocene and became an exposed land mass in the Plio-Pleistocene (Pindell and Barrett, 1990, p. 419).

Family Isselicrinidae Klikushin, 1977

Genus *Cenocrinus* Thomson, 1864

Cenocrinus asterius (Linné, 1767)

Figure 4

Material: An internodal, BMNH EE 5050 (Fig. 4). Two pluricolumnals, BMNH EE 5051, EE 5055, are also tentatively included in this species.

Occurrence: Cliffs and associated fallen blocks exposed near the mouth of the Christmas River, parish of Portland, eastern Jamaica (Fig. 1.1; GR 798 421, old 1:50,000 series, sheet M, 'Port Antonio'). Manchioneal Formation, Upper Coastal Group. Early Pleistocene.

Description: Pentalobate internodal columnal with strongly rounded angles. Lumen central, small and circular. Articulation symplectial, arranged about five moderately broad, lensoid areola petals that correspond to the columnal angles. Petals separate, divided centrally by a prominent perilumen. Crenulae mainly perpendicular to circumference of areola petals. Crenulae short, unbranched, 6 to 7 culmina along each side of areola petals, with crenulae of adjacent petals coalescing towards the center. Triangular naked zones occur adjacent to the circumference in interpetaloid zones. Columnal low. Latus slightly convex and unsculptured.

Fig. 2. Early Pleistocene crinoid columnals and pluricolumnals from Jamaica. (1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11) *Neocrinus decorus* Thomson, 1864. (1, 4) BMNH EE 5064. (1) Articular facet, x14. (4) Detail of an areola petal, x34. (2, 6) BMNH EE 5065[2]. (2) Articular facet, x14. (6) Stereom trabeculae of areola petal overgrown by microspar, x850. (7, 10, 11) BMNH EE 5062. (7) Cirral facet of nodal, x32. (10) Pluricolumnal, x7.5. (11) Serpulid worm tube encrusting pluricolumnal, x39. (9) BMNH EE 5065[3], distal cryptosymplectial articulation of a broken nodal columnal, x14. (3, 5, 8) *Diplocrinus maclearanus* (Thomson). (3) BMNH EE 5057[1], articular facet, x12. (5) BMNH EE 5058, pluricolumnal (intermoditaxis), with cryptosymplectial articulation at top, x8. (8) BMNH EE 5059, apparent growth deformation of facet, x14. Scanning electron micrographs of specimens coated with 60% gold-palladium.

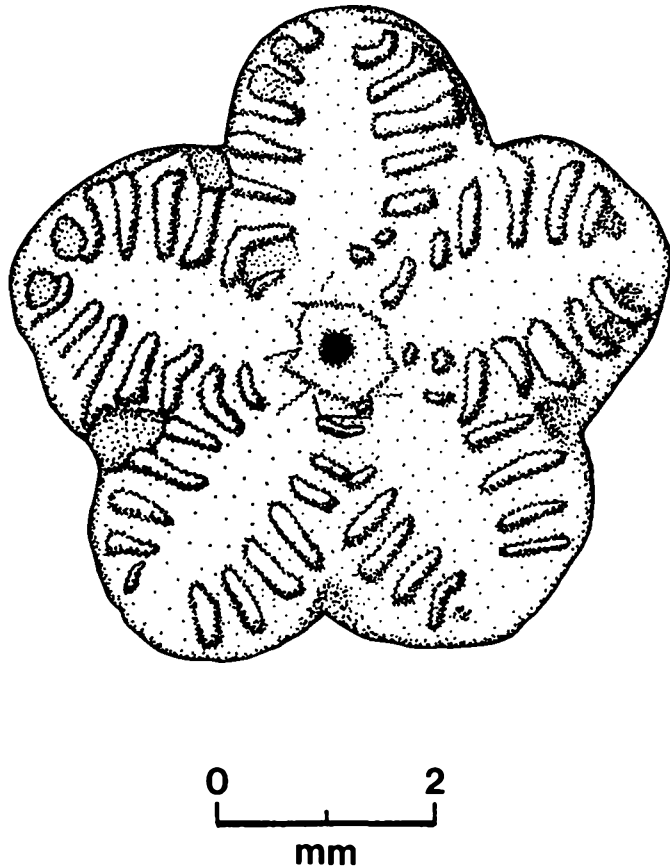


Fig. 4. *Cenocrinus asterius* (Linné, 1767) from the early Pleistocene of Jamaica, articular facet, BMNH EE 5050. Camera lucida drawing.

Remarks: Donovan (1989) identified cf. *Cenocrinus asterius* from the Manchioneal Formation at San San Bay (Table 1), based on a single, poorly preserved columnal. Comparison of BMNH EE 5050 with illustrations of the articular facet in extant *C. asterius* (Roux, 1977, fig. 3E, F, 13; Donovan, 1989, fig. 2C, D, F; Donovan *et al.*, 1993, fig. 3.7) suggests that it is conspecific, although the specimens illustrated by Roux appear to have slightly more angular areola petals.

Extant *C. asterius* is known to occur at water depths of 183 to 585 m in the western Atlantic, including offshore Jamaica (Meyer *et al.*, 1978, p. 424). This suggests a minimum depth of deposition for the Manchioneal Formation at Christmas River of about 180 m; the other two nominal species from this locality are known from minimum depths of 154 (*N. decorus*) and 187 m (*D. maclearanus*) (Meyer *et al.*, 1978, pp. 425, 426). Even if these depth minima are inaccurate, extant stalked crinoids rarely extend into water depths of less than 150 m (Lane and Webster, 1980, p. 145). This depth range is in agreement with estimates based on sedimentology and brachiopods (E.N. Doyle, personal communication), echinoids (Donovan and Embden, in press) and 'deep-water alcyonarian corals' (Robinson, 1969, p. 9). However, it is at variance with data from ostracodes (van den Bold, 1971), which suggest that most deposition of the Manchioneal Formation occurred at less than 100 m water depth. Crinoids have only been found at San San Bay and Christ-

mas River, both basal sections of the Manchioneal Formation, suggesting that this unit is a shallowing-upwards sequence (Donovan and Embden, in press).

Genus *Diplocrinus* Döderlein, 1912

Diplocrinus maclearanus (Thomson, 1877)

Figure 2.3, 2.5, 2.8

Material: Five columnals and pluricolumnals, BMNH EE 5057[1] (Fig. 2.3), EE 5058 (Fig. 2.5), EE 5059 (Fig. 2.8), EE 5065[1], EE 5066. A further specimen, BMNH EE 5054, is only tentatively included in this species.

Occurrence: Cliffs and associated fallen blocks exposed near the mouth of the Christmas River, parish of Portland, eastern Jamaica (Fig. 1.1; GR 798 421, old 1:50,000 series, sheet M, 'Port Antonio'). Manchioneal Formation, Upper Coastal Group. Early Pleistocene.

Description: For a description of the stem of extant *D. maclearanus*, see Macurda and Roux (1981).

Remarks: Roux (1977, table 2) considered the distinguishing features of *Diplocrinus*, based on *D. alternicirrus* (Carpenter) and *D. wyvillethomsoni* (Jeffreys), to be the lanceolate shape of the areola petals, the open crenularium with less than 8 crenulae in each petaloid zone, and an undifferentiated interpetaloid zone without an interpetaloid groove. These features are all apparent in the figured articular facet (Fig. 2.3), which agrees well with that of *D. maclearanus* (Macurda and Roux, 1981, pl. 15, figs. 4-7). Meyer *et al.* (1978, p. 426) did not note the occurrence of this species in Jamaican waters at the present day, but it is broadly distributed in the tropical western Atlantic.

BMNH EE 5059 is a pluricolumnal with one exposed facet that compares with *D. maclearanus*. However, the other facet (Fig. 2.8) appears to have a deformity in which two petals are growing particularly close together so that their crenulae are in close association.

Incertae familiae

Isocrinids gen et sp. indet.

Material: Six pluricolumnals, BMNH EE 5056, EE 5061, EE 5071-EE 5074.

Occurrence: Cliffs and associated fallen blocks exposed near the mouth of the Christmas River, parish of Portland, eastern Jamaica (Fig. 1.1; GR 798 421, old 1:50,000 series, sheet M, 'Port Antonio'). Upper Coastal Group, Manchioneal Formation. Early Pleistocene.

Remarks: The articular facets on these specimens are poorly preserved, but they probably belong to one of the three species documented from Christmas River (see above).

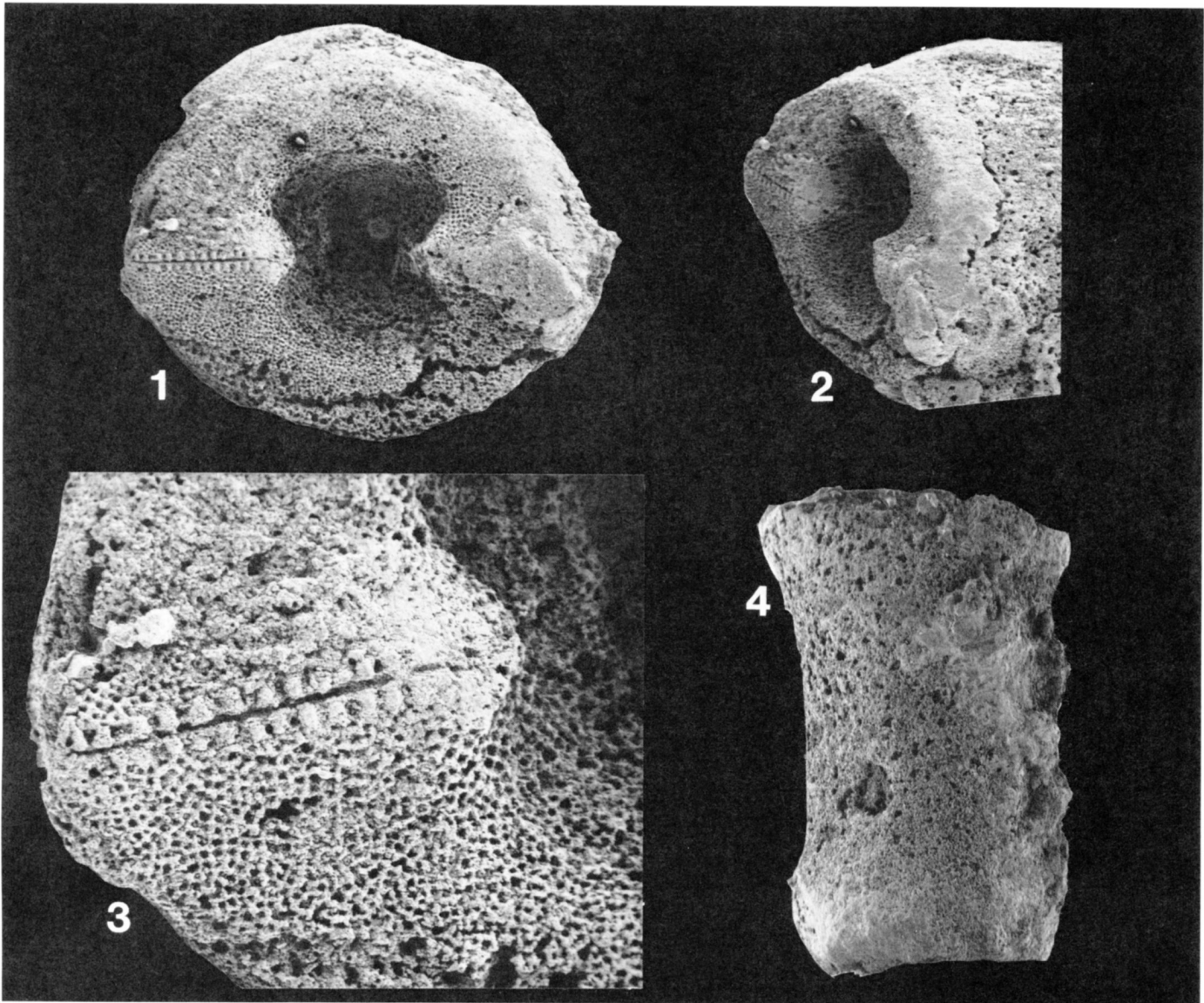


Fig. 5. *Democrinus* sp. or *Monachocrinus* sp. from the early Pleistocene of eastern Jamaica. (1-3) BMNH EE 5136. (1) Articular facet, x40. (2) Oblique view of articular facet and latus, x36. (3) Detail of the fulcral ridge, x125. (4) BMNH EE 5137, lateral view, x21. All scanning electron micrographs of specimens coated with 60% gold-palladium.

Suborder Bourgueticrinina Sieverts-Doreck, 1953
Family Bathycrinidae Bather, 1899

Democrinus sp. or *Monachocrinus* sp.

Figure 5

Material: Two columnals, BMNH EE 5136, EE 5137. EE 5136 exposes a well-preserved articular facet (Fig. 5.1, 5.3), although the latus is largely obscured (Fig. 5.2). EE 5137 has poorly preserved articular, but a well-exposed latus (Fig. 5.4).

Occurrence: From fallen blocks exposed near the mouth of the Christmas River, parish of Portland, eastern Jamaica (Fig. 1.1; GR 798 421, old 1:50,000 topographic series, sheet M, 'Port Antonio'). Manchioneal Formation, Upper Coastal Group. Early Pleistocene.

Description: Articular facet lenticular in outline, bifascial, with synarthrial ridge corresponding to long axis. Synarthrial ridge with axial groove flanked by offset knobs separated by large pores. Facet flanking synarthry relatively depressed. Center of columnal strongly depressed, shaped like broad figure '8', with rounded(?) axial canal at base of depression. Stereom of facet galleried(?), knobs of synarthrial ridge imperforate.

Columnal higher than wide, with unsculptured, planar latera that are slightly convex adjacent to latera. Long axes of latera offset within any columnal.

Remarks: These columnals are typical of bathycrinids, both in their facet and latus geometry (for example, compare with illustrations in Macurda and Meyer, 1975, pl. 2, figs. 4-7; 1976, pl. 1). Their occurrence in the early Pleistocene of the Caribbean is not unexpected, as the only extant bourgueticrinines in

the region belong to this family (Meyer *et al.*, 1978, pp. 426-427). Unfortunately, without the evidence of the crown, it is impossible to classify these columnals with confidence below familial level. However, the extant Caribbean taxa belong to just two genera, *Democrinus* Perrier and *Monachocrinus* A.H. Clark, and it seems probable that these fossil columnals belong to one of these taxa. The Caribbean bathytrichids have the following depth ranges (Meyer *et al.*, 1978): *Democrinus rawsonii* (Pourtalès), 66 to 652 m; *D. conifer* (A.H. Clark), 170 to 1750 m; *D. brevis* (A.H. Clark), 210 to 878 m; and *Monachocrinus caribbeus* (A.H. Clark), possibly 421 to 1857 m. On the basis of these figures, it is tentatively suggested that the Manchioneal Formation specimen is most likely to represent a *Democrinus* sp.

The column of bathytrichids tends to be divided into a short proxistele, with low columnals articulating synostosially, a long mesistele with relatively few, tall columnals, and a short dististele adapted as a radicular attachment structure (Donovan and Pawson, research in progress). The mesistele may be further subdivided into more proximal, cylindrical columnals and more distal columnals with strongly elliptical articular facets, which give the columnal a 'bone-like' appearance. The present specimens obviously belong to the more distal mesistele.

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