



BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),

CROMWELL ROAD,

LONDON: S.W.

May 28th 1903

Dear Prof Spencer,

We have not got
the type of *Hydractinia*
arborescens Carter.

In my Ms. Catalogue
list of the Hydrozoa

I have the entry
"*Hydractinia arborescens* Carter

Type specimen referred to in

Ann Mag Nat Hist 1878. I p 298

(Bowerbank Coll; Loc?

Polynesia) not to be
found 9/11/93."

Also I have written in pencil
in the library copy of the

Ann Mag Nat Hist a vol I 1878/1879
"Type specimen was not to be
found" 9/11/93.

I made three entries only
after a prolonged search.

Carter may not have
returned the specimen
to the Museum; and
since he bequeathed his
collections of slides and
apparatus to Doudy, the
specimen may possibly
be in New Zealand or
Australia. The Hydractinia

38
Calcearia Carter described in
the same paper is in the
Liverpool Free Museum. In

reply to my query on the
matter, the curator informs
me that only one of the
two specimens is there;
accordingly the co-type of

H. calcearia may be in
Australasia, too. This
detail about H. calcearia is
slightly beside the mark,
but I thought the
information might be of
interest to you.

I am wondering why
you have been making
enquiries about the type spec^a

of *H. arborescens*; and
I have a vague hope
that possibly you have it.

Yours sincerely

R. Kirkpatrick