

The asterid obtained during the "Blake" dredgings and described by Perrier¹ under the name of *Archaster simplex*, is without doubt a *Pararchaster*. It is, however, an immature form, and I am unable to say from the description given whether it belongs to an independent species or is the young of one of those herein described. The figure given² is altogether unlike the smallest example of *Pararchaster armatus* in the character of the armature both of the adambulacral and infero-marginal plates, and this appears to be the only form with which a direct comparison can be instituted. The description is too short to render any assistance in this case.

Chorology of the Genus Pararchaster.

a. *Geographical distribution* :—

ATLANTIC : Three species between the parallels of 50° N. and 10° S.

Pararchaster armatus and *Pararchaster semisquamatus*, var. *occidentalis*, off the coast of North America. *Pararchaster armatus* is also found off the coast of Portugal. *Pararchaster spinosissimus* off the Island of Ascension.

PACIFIC : One species between the parallels of 30° and 40° N.

Pararchaster semisquamatus, south of Japan.

SOUTHERN OCEAN : Two species between the parallels of 30° and 70° S.

Pararchaster pedicifer between the Cape of Good Hope and Kerguelen Island. *Pararchaster antarcticus* in the region of the Antarctic Circle, near the meridian of 80° E. The latter species is nearly allied to a species in the North Atlantic and also in the North Pacific.

β. *Bathymetrical range* : 425 fathoms to 1900 fathoms.

All the species excepting one (*Pararchaster spinosissimus*) belong to the Abyssal zone. Two species only (*Pararchaster spinosissimus* and *Pararchaster semisquamatus*) occur in depths less than 1000 fathoms.

Greatest range of one species : *Pararchaster semisquamatus*, 565 to 1875 fathoms.

γ. *Nature of the Sea-bottom* : Three species, viz., *Pararchaster semisquamatus*, *Pararchaster antarcticus*, and *Pararchaster armatus*, on Blue mud ; and *Pararchaster semisquamatus* is also found on the Green mud in 565 fathoms. *Pararchaster pedicifer* on Diatom ooze and Globigerina ooze ; and *Pararchaster spinosissimus* on Volcanic sand in 425 fathoms.

¹ *Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, 1881, vol. ix. p. 28 ; *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 1884, 2e Sér., t. vi. p. 264.

² *Loc. cit.* pl. i. fig. 8.