

this last species I offer the suggestion with much doubt, for the description given is altogether inadequate for classificatory purposes. I am unable to recognise any of these forms amongst the Challenger material.

Of the several new species from the North-American coast described by Verrill during the last few years under the generic name of *Archaster*, none appear to belong to the genus *Pontaster*. I would, however, suggest that the Asterid from this region which has been referred to *Archaster tenuispinus* may perhaps be found to be the same as the form I have named *Pontaster hebitus*.

Chorology of the Genus Pontaster.

a. *Geographical distribution* :—

ATLANTIC : Six species between the parallels of 80° N. and 40° S.

Pontaster forcipatus and *Pontaster hebitus*, off the coast of North America. *Pontaster limbatus* in the Faerøe Channel, off the west coast of Ireland and S.W. of the Scilly Islands. *Pontaster tenuispinus* in the Faerøe Channel, off the Scandinavian coasts, and as far north as Spitzbergen. (Also Greenland *vide* Lütken, and North America *vide* Verrill.) *Pontaster tenuispinus*, var. *platynota*, in the Faerøe Channel and off the west coast of Ireland. *Pontaster venustus*, east of the Azores, and *Pontaster venustus*, var. *robusta*, off the Cape Verde Islands. *Pontaster pristinus*, off the eastern coast of South America.

PACIFIC : Four species between the parallels of 40° N. and 50° S.

Pontaster oxyacanthus, south of Japan. *Pontaster trullipes*, west of the island of Luzon (Philippines). *Pontaster subtuberculatus*, east of Australia. *Pontaster planeta*, west of South America, near the entrance to the Straits of Magellan.

EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO : Two species between the parallels of 0° and 10° S.

Pontaster mimicus in the Arafura Sea. *Pontaster teres*, in the Banda Sea, between the Ki Islands and Banda Islands.

SOUTHERN OCEAN : One species between the parallels of 40° and 50° S.

Pontaster forcipatus, var. *echinata*, between Marion Island and the Crozet Islands.

β. *Bathymetrical range* : 70 fathoms to 2650 fathoms.

Six species are found above the Abyssal zone (*i.e.*, in depths less than 500 fathoms), *viz.*, *Pontaster hebitus*, *Pontaster limbatus*, *Pontaster oxyacanthus*, *Pontaster planeta*, *Pontaster tenuispinus*, with its var. *platynota*, and *Pontaster*