

no trace of the presence of any pedicellariæ whatever on the actinal surface, whilst in *Pontaster forcipatus* of this size, and even smaller, these organs form a most conspicuous feature, being already well developed in the smallest example I have examined. No pedicellariæ are to be found anywhere on *Pontaster pristinus*.

Notwithstanding the incompleteness of the above summary of the characters of this young starfish, they appear to me sufficient to show that we are dealing with a distinct species. The great depth at which it occurs (2650 fathoms) is worthy of note.

Colour in alcohol, a dirty ashy or slightly brownish grey.

Locality.—Station 325. Off the coast of South America, east of Buenos Ayres. March 2, 1876. Lat. $36^{\circ} 44' 0''$ S., long. $46^{\circ} 16' 0''$ W. Depth 2650 fathoms. Blue mud. Bottom temperature $32^{\circ} \cdot 7$ Fabr.; surface temperature $70^{\circ} \cdot 8$ Fabr.

10. *Pontaster venustus*, n. sp. (Pl. VIII. figs. 5 and 6; Pl. XII. figs. 5 and 6).

Rays five. $R = 37$ mm.; $r = 8$ mm. $R > 4 \cdot 5 r$. Breadth of a ray near the base, 8·5 mm.

Rays elongate, rather broad at the base, and thence tapering continuously up to a finely pointed extremity. Interbranchial arcs well rounded. Abactinal surface of disk and rays flat, slightly sloping from the centre of the disk to the extremity of the rays. Actinal surface flat and level.

The paxillæ of the abactinal area are small and rather widely spaced, with a crown of five to eight small papilliform spinelets in those situated about midway between the centre and the extremity of the ray, and six to ten, or occasionally more, in those upon the disk. The larger paxillæ in the respective regions have frequently a single delicate, hairlike, central spinelet, longer than the diameter of the whole crown of the paxilla, and four or five times longer than the small papilliform spinelets that encircle it. No order of arrangement is presented by the paxillæ. No pedicellariæ of any kind are to be found on the abactinal area, or indeed anywhere upon this species.

The marginal plates are conspicuous in the abactinal view, and form a well-defined and slightly raised border to the disk and rays—the breadth, however, diminishing considerably towards the extremity of the rays. The supero-marginal plates are twenty-five or twenty-six in number from the median interradial line to the extremity. Their breadth at a little distance from the base of the ray is about equal to their height, and their length is rather greater than their breadth, often nearly one-third. Each supero-marginal plate, excepting the first on each side of the median interradial line, bears a single moderately-long conical pointed spine, standing on the middle of the rounded angle of the plate, and directed laterally and very slightly forwards at an angle of about 45° to the abactinal surface of the ray. These spines are robust at the base, and borne on a slight prominence. They increase in length up to the fifth plate from the median interradial line, where they measure 2·5 mm., and then decrease slowly and gradually up to the