Madreporiform body large, a little more than its own diameter distant from the margin.

Remarks.—The genus *Moiraster* is established for the reception of a well-characterised form described by Professor Jeffrey Bell[1] under the name of *Archaster magnificus*, the types of which are in the British Museum.

Through the kindness of Professor Bell I have had every facility for examining this interesting starfish. Judging from the superficial examination of the dried examples I consider that the character of the abactinal plating, the form of the marginal plates, the extensive development of the interradial areas, the character of the intermediate plates, and the presence of the strongly-developed superambulacral plates of *Archaster magnificus* necessitate its separation from *Archaster* as now defined. I have also great doubts as to the presence of an anal orifice. I regard the form as the type of a distinct genus, for which, at the request of my friend, I have proposed a name, in order that it might be placed in the foregoing synopsis. The natural position of *Moiraster* appears to be intermediate between *Leptoptychaster* and *Astropecten*.

Supplementary to the excellent specific description given by Professor Bell, I have added the preceding notes on the characters which may be taken as diagnostic of the genus.

1. *Moiraster magnificus*, Bell, sp.

Archaster magnificus, Bell, 1881, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. viii. p. 440.

Locality.—St Helena. Collected by Mr J. C. Melliss.

No example of this form was obtained by the Challenger Expedition.

Genus *Astropecten*, Linck.

Astropecten, Linck, De Stellis marinis, 1733, p. 26.
Stellaria, Nardo, De Asteriis, Oken's Isis, 1834, p. 716.
Asterias, Agassiz, Mém. Soc. Sci. Nat. Neuchatel, 1835, t. i. p. 168.
Crenaster, d'Orbigny, Prodrome de Paléontologie, 1850, t. i. p. 240.

This genus is world-wide in its distribution, but confined to the temperate and tropical regions. Nearly all the species inhabit shallow water, and, with the exception of three, are confined to the Littoral zone.

The number of species is large, and the morphological plasticity of the genus considerable, as might naturally be expected in a type extended over such a wide area; the species maintaining, however, the type facies in a remarkable manner.

[1] *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1881, ser. 5, vol. viii. p. 440.