

that the form should be referred to *Astropecten*, if the figure is correct. This view appears to me altogether untenable, unless the description is also wrong.

There are several starfishes in the Museum at Stockholm, which are referred to this species, and in my opinion correctly, so far as my knowledge, limited to the description of Thomson's type, justifies such an expression. I have not, however, examined the specimens with reference to microscopic details, and therefore confine myself to the simple statement of their existence. The examples in question, which were collected by the "Ingegerd" and "Gladan" Expedition in 1871, were dredged in Baffin's Bay, lat. 67° 26' N., long. 58° 29' W., at a depth of 692 fathoms, and off Omenak, on the west coast of Greenland, in 122 fathoms.

Subfamily LUTIDIINÆ, Sladen, 1887.

Genus *Luidia*, Forbes.

Luidia, Forbes, Mem. Wern. Soc., 1839, vol. viii. p. 123.

Hemicnemis, Müller and Troschel, Monatsber. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1840 (April), p. 105.

Petalaster, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1840 (November), vol. vi. p. 183.

This well-known and sharply defined genus constitutes a very distinct type, the characters of which are remarkably constant and subject to comparatively slight modification, as exhibited in the range of species at present known.

Two points in the morphological structure of *Luidia*, which are highly significant from a phylogenetic point of view, may here be referred to in justification of the course I have taken in placing the genus in a distinct subfamily. The first is the correspondence of the infero-marginal and adambulacral plates, and the second is the presence of a small intermediate plate between each infero-marginal and adambulacral plate. The correspondence of the infero-marginal and adambulacral plates has already been noticed by Alex. Agassiz¹ and Viguiet;² but the intermediate plate, notwithstanding its importance from a systematic point of view, has strangely hitherto been overlooked by all observers: in fact, the assertion of its presence is in direct opposition to the statements of other writers on the group. Thus Viguiet,³ who has made a careful study of the details of the Asterid skeleton, states that in *Luidia* the marginal and adambulacral plates alone constitute the actinal skeleton of the rays, and that it is only in the interradian angles that intermediate plates—smaller and less numerous than in *Astropecten*—are intercalated between the two series. The same opinion is held by Perrier,⁴ who, in his recent work on the Asteroidea of the "Blake" Expedition, regards the contiguity of the marginal and adambulacral plates as a character diagnostic of the family Astropectinidæ, the genus *Luidia* being included in this category.

In the face of these statements I should have hesitated in according a special import-

¹ North American Starfishes, *Mem. Mus. Comp. Zool.*, Harvard, vol. v. No. 1, 1877, p. 117.

² *Archives de Zool. expér.*, 1878, t. vii. p. 228.

³ *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 2e Série, 1884, t. vi. p. 266.