

is situated nearer the margin than the centre of the disk, at the top of the lateral wall in the interbrachial arc, and is surrounded by the spinelets borne on the adjacent abactinal plates.

No pedicellariæ of any kind are present.

The ambulacral tube-feet have large fleshy disks.

Colour in alcohol, an ashy grey.

*Locality*.—Station 156. In the neighbourhood of the pack ice, near the Antarctic Circle. February 26, 1874. Lat. 62° 26' 0" S.; long. 95° 44' 0" E. Depth 1975 fathoms. Diatom ooze. Bottom temperature 32.1° Fabr.; surface temperature 37.2° Fabr.

#### Genus *Gnathaster*, n. gen.

It is not without great reluctance that I have proposed a new generic name for the present small group of species. I had hoped in the first instance to have limited the term *Astrogonium* in such a way as to have served for their reception, since all the species except the new ones have at various times been ranked in that genus. Unfortunately, however, they do not comprise a single species referred by Müller and Troschel to *their* genus; and on carefully studying the diagnosis given in the *System der Asteriden* (p. 52) it will be seen that that diagnosis could in no way be amended so as to admit of the reception of the forms now under consideration, without such a radical alteration as would really take away from it the only characters upon which its original recognition depended.

On referring to the series of species grouped by Müller and Troschel in the genus *Astrogonium*, it will be apparent that all of them, excepting the form originally described by Gray<sup>1</sup> under the name of *Pentagonaster pulchellus*, are referrible to the older genera *Pentagonaster* of Linck and *Hippasteria* of Gray. It is therefore to this form, *Pentagonaster pulchellus*, Gray, and its subsequently described allies, that the generic appellation of *Astrogonium* should now be applied, if the name is retained at all.

Perrier<sup>2</sup> has recently expressed the opinion that this type (*Pentagonaster pulchellus*, Gray), together with a small assemblage of allied species, is worthy of independent generic recognition. This view appears to me just, and based on the presence of characters the morphological significance of which had hitherto been overlooked. As a generic name for this group, Perrier has restored that of *Stephanaster* of Ayres,<sup>3</sup> on the ground that *Stephanaster elegans*, Ayres, is synonymous with *Pentagonaster pulchellus*, Gray, or in other words, that the form described by Gray in 1840, under the name of *Pentagonaster pulchellus*, was redescribed by Ayres in 1851 under the name of *Stephanaster elegans*, on the supposition that it was a genus and species new to science.

With this selection of a name for the group in question I am unable to agree, for in

<sup>1</sup> *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1840, vol. vi. p. 280.

<sup>2</sup> *Ann. Sci. Nat. (Zool.)*, 1885, t. xix., Art. No. 8, p. 30.

<sup>3</sup> *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 1851, vol. iv. p. 118.