

marginal plates. The spinulation of the actinal intermediate plates is well-developed and delicate, the delicacy emphasising the spiniform character. The spines forming the armature of the adambulacral plates are also more delicate and relatively longer than in the adult.

Malformation of ray.—The smaller specimen above mentioned is interesting from the fact that one of the rays is bifurcate, forming two subequal branches, each having about ten supero-marginal plates on a side. The two branches are formed with great regularity, and there is no imperfection to lead to the suggestion that one has better claim than the other to be ranked as the true tip of the radius. Both have a terminal plate, and the ambulacral furrow passes along each branch regularly and equally.

Colour in alcohol, a bleached greyish white.

Locality.—Station 313. Off Cape Virgins, eastern coast of South America, near the Atlantic entrance to the Strait of Magellan. January 20, 1876. Lat. 52° 20' 0" S., long. 67° 39' 0" W. Depth 55 fathoms. Sand. Bottom temperature 47°·8 Fahr.; surface temperature 48°·2 Fahr.

Remarks.—Perhaps the nearest ally of this species is *Gnathaster meridionalis*. The present form may, however, be at once distinguished by the more depressed form of the body, by the less produced rays, which are broader at the base and distinctly triangular, by the peculiar capitate tubercle-like paxillæ, and by the character of the spinulation of the actinal area generally.

Genus *Nymphaster*, Sladen.

Nymphaster, Sladen in Narr. Chall. Exp., 1885, vol. i. p. 612.

Disk large and flat. Rays elongate, slender, tapering, and almost square in section.

Marginal plates forming a broad border to the disk, and either united along the median abactinal line of the ray throughout, or separated only by a single series of medio-radial plates. The marginal plates of both series are granulated and bear no spines.

Abactinal area of the disk covered with large and regularly arranged plates; those in the radial areas well separated, usually hexagonal, more or less tabulate and paxilliform, and frequently bearing an excavate or entrenched pedicellaria.

Actinal interradial areas large, confined to the disk. Actinal intermediate plates well defined, covered with uniform granules and occasionally bearing pedicellariæ.

Armature of the adambulacral plates arranged in longitudinal series.

Madreporiform body exposed and situated within one third of the distance from the centre to the margin.

Large entrenched pedicellariæ are frequently present on the marginal plates in some species.