

to that described in *Nectria ocellata*. This singular admixture of characters in the adult and in the young forms has made me hesitate before referring these examples to *Nectria ocellata*, and has, at least in my mind, thrown a doubt upon the validity of the separation of *Nectria ocellata* as a species distinct from *Nectria ocellifera*. As this can only be settled by the study of a larger series of both old and young forms than I have been able to consult, I have referred the examples under notice to the original species, *Nectria ocellifera*.

Subfamily GONIODISCINÆ, Sladen, 1888.

Genus *Stellaster*, Gray.

Stellaster, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1840, vol. vi. p. 277.

Goniaster (subgen. *Stellaster*), von Martens, Archiv f. Naturg., 1865, Jahrg. xxxi., Bd. i. p. 356.

Pentagonaster (subgen. *Stellaster*), Perrier, Révis. Stell. Mus., p. 196 (Archives de Zool. expér., 1876, t. v. p. 12).

I consider that this genus well merits independent recognition, and that in any case its structural characters do not justify its being regarded as a mere subdivision of the genus *Pentagonaster*, unless the limits of that genus are made much more extended than has ever yet been proposed by any classifier. To take such a step would be in my opinion to ignore altogether what should be recognised as the characters of a genus, and would almost necessitate a reversion to the old idea of a genus founded on single arbitrary characters rather than on the consideration of the affinities and differences of its morphological structure as a whole.

Stellaster is in many respects structurally related to *Goniodiscus*, as limited by M. Perrier, and I have placed them in the same subfamily.

Chorology of the Genus *Stellaster*.

a. Geographical distribution:—

PACIFIC: Two species between the parallels of 40° N. and 20° S.

Stellaster equestris and *Stellaster tuberculatus* from China; the former also from Japan and Formosa, and extending to Australia.

EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO: Five species between the parallels of 20° N. and 20° S.

Stellaster equestris (which extends northward to China and Japan), *Stellaster granulatus*, *Stellaster squamulosus*, and *Stellaster incei*, from Australia; the last named also from Amboina, New Guinea, and Sumatra. *Stellaster incei* was collected by the Challenger in Torres Strait and the Arafura Sea, and amongst the Philippine group. *Stellaster princeps* from Torres Strait.

β. Bathymetrical range: As at present known all the species are confined to the littoral zone: the greatest recorded depth is *Stellaster squamulosus*, 60 fathoms.