

Genus *Rhegaster*, Sladen.

Rhegaster, Sladen, Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin. 1883, vol. xxxii. p. 155.

Marginal contour subpentagonal; rays slightly produced. Abactinal surface more or less convex, actinal flat. The whole body covered with membrane beset with crowded spinelets.

Abactinal skeleton composed of irregular plates, crowded and subimbricated in places, which leave small irregularly disposed meshes. The whole skeleton hidden in a thick membrane, and furnished with a compact covering of small, uniform, crowded spinelets. Papulæ small, numerous, isolated, irregularly distributed over the whole area.

Infero-marginal plates large, forming the margin of the test. Supero-marginal plates, superficially invisible, concealed in the abactinal membrane.

Actinal interradial areas with large subregular plates, hidden by a superficial membrane, with small crowded spinelets.

Adambulacral plates broader than long. Adambulacral armature consisting of short spines thickly invested with membrane, which form a regular furrow series, and several subregular longitudinal rows externally. Tube-feet in simple pairs, with a small sucker disk.

Madreporiform body small, midway between the margin and the apex.

No pedicellariæ.

Remarks.—This genus was established for the reception of a starfish dredged during the "Triton" cruise; and I have also referred to it the form which was named by Stuxberg¹ *Solaster tumidus*, but which was afterwards ranked as an *Asterina* by Danielssen and Koren.²

Through the kindness of Professor Lovén, I have had the privilege of examining Dr Stuxberg's type specimens in Stockholm, and I entirely agree with Drs Danielssen and Koren in regarding the original reference of the form to *Solaster* as altogether untenable.

Chorology of the Genus Rhegaster.

a. *Geographical distribution:*—

ATLANTIC: Two species between the parallels of 60° and 85° N.

Rhegaster tumidus off Nova Zembla, Spitzbergen, the coasts of Norway and Siberia. A variety (*tuberculata*) has been described by Danielssen and Koren which occurs between Norway and Spitzbergen.

Rhegaster murrayi in the Faerøe Channel.

¹ *Öfversigt K. Svensk. Vet.-Akad. Förhandl.*, Årg. 35, 1878 (1879), No. 3, p. 31, pl. vi.

² *Nyt Mag. f. Naturvidensk.*, Bd. xxvi. Hft. 2, p. 182, pls. i. & ii. figs. 6-10.