

Station 5. In the Faerøe Channel. August 10, 1882. Lat. 60° 11' to 60° 20' N., long. 8° 15' to 8° 8' W. Depth 433 to 285 fathoms. Bottom temperature 43°·5 to 40°·8 Fahr.

Genus *Lasiaster*, n. gen.

Marginal contour stellato-pentagonal or pentagonal. Abactinal surface subplane, or may be slightly inflated.

Abactinal plates subcircular, covered with membrane, bearing numerous small miliary spinelets which are more or less co-ordinated in relation to the plates. Papulæ large, isolated, widely separate, and irregularly distributed over the whole area.

Supero-marginal plates well developed and superficially visible, covered with numerous small, miliary spinelets.

Infero-marginal plates large, also covered with numerous miliary spinelets, of which a larger series may be developed at the ambital margin.

Actinal interradial areas with large regularly arranged intermediate plates, more or less hidden by a superficial membrane and bearing groups of spinelets.

Adambulacral armature consisting of (1), a short furrow series of two or three spinelets; and (2), a transverse series on the actinal surface of the plate. Or the whole armature may be disposed as a single transverse series.

Madreporiform body small, approximately midway between the centre and the margin.

Anal aperture present, subcentral.

No pedicellariæ.

Remarks.—This genus is established for the reception of a small form dredged during the "Porcupine" Expedition, which I am unable to place in any of the known genera. Its nearest alliances appear to be with *Rhegaster* and *Poraniomorpha*, and I have accordingly included it in the family Gymnasteriidæ, although in many respects an extreme form.

Lasiaster differs from *Rhegaster* and *Poraniomorpha* in the character and development of the supero-marginal plates, which are well-developed, conspicuous, and subequal to the infero-marginal plates, the two series forming a thick margin in contradistinction to the angular margin formed only by the infero-marginal plates in the two forms named. The abactinal, marginal, and actinal intermediate plates all bear isolated groups of spinelets. These characters might lead at first sight to the impression that the starfish under notice is an aberrant member of the Pentagonasteridæ, but I only regard the resemblance as superficial.

Although I have never seen any examples of the starfish described by Sars¹ under the name of *Goniaster hispidus*, I am led to believe from the careful description and drawings given by that author that his form should be referred also to the present genus.

¹ Fauna Littoralis Norvegiæ, 3die Hefte, 1877, p. 72, pl. viii., figs. 24 and 25.