

2. Papular areas confluent laterally. Madreporiform body large and compound *Pharia*.
- ii. Abactinal and marginal plates (in fact the whole test) covered with a thick membranous investment *Leiaster*.
- β. Abactinal plates not forming regular longitudinal series.
- i. Adambulacral armature granuliform, two or three series. No papulæ on the actinal surface. Abactinal plates comparatively small.
1. Rays more or less cylindrical. Papulæ in areas irregularly distributed amongst the abactinal plates *Linckia*.
2. Rays trigonal. Papulæ in one or two continuous uninterrupted rows on each side of the ray *Phataria*.
- ii. Adambulacral armature papilliform or spiniform, subprismatic, usually in three series. Abactinal plates comparatively large.
1. Rays rounded. Papulæ on the actinal surface. Papulæ in areas *Nardoa*.
2. Body pyramidal, rays triangular in section. No papulæ on the actinal surface. Papulæ single, isolated *Narcissia*.
- b. Abactinal and marginal plates covered with membrane, the former and occasionally the latter bearing isolated skin-covered spinelets METRODIRINÆ.
- a. A single genus *Metrodora*.

Subfamily CHÆTASTERINÆ, Sladen, 1888.

Genus *Chætaster*, Müller and Troschel.

Chætaster, Müller and Troschel, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, April 1840, p. 103.

? *Astropus* (subgen.), Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., Nov. 1840, vol. vi. p. 182.

Nepanthia (*pars*), Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., Dec. 1840, vol. vi. p. 287.

This singular genus was originally ranked with the *Astropectinidæ*, but was removed by Viguiet¹ in 1878 to the *Linckiidæ*. The justice of this step has recently been recognised by Perrier.² I fully concur in this, although I regard *Chætaster* as a very abnormal member of the family, and have placed it in a distinct subfamily.

Chorology of the Genus Chætaster.

a. *Geographical distribution* :—

ATLANTIC: Two species between the parallels of 10° and 40° N.

Chætaster longipes, from the Mediterranean, and off the Azores and Bermuda. *Chætaster nodosus*, from Guadeloupe.

¹ *Archives de Zool. expér.*, 1878, t. vii. p. 147.

² *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 2e Série, 1884, t. vi. p. 164.