

rays. Paxillæ small, numerous, closely crowded, with ten to twenty-one spinelets, which are more or less divergent from the pedicle. Fifteen to seventeen paxillæ may be counted in the median interradial line, and about ten across the base of the ray. Papulæ few, not more than one to three in a group.

Adambulacral armature consisting of: (1.) a furrow series of six spines on each plate near the mouth, and five on the more outward plates, the aboral spine smallest; (2.) a transverse series on the actinal surface of the plate composed of eight spines. The two spines nearest the furrow are placed more aborally than the rest, which gives the line of base of each transverse series an aboral curve at the furrow side. The middle spines are longest, the outermost smallest; all tapering to a fine point, robust at the base; no webbing apparent. Mouth-plates with robust mouth-spines, and a prominent series of nine or ten secondary or superficial spinelets, larger than the marginal mouth-spines. Interradial areas covered with small paxillæ, and rather crowded.

Remarks.—This variety, which was dredged in the Faerøe Channel, seemed to me worthy of being recognised by name on account of its constancy over a considerable area of distribution. The form is ten rayed, and accords in this and other particulars with a number of examples collected during the "Porcupine" cruise. The chief characters are persistent throughout the whole series of specimens I have examined, but several are present in an extreme degree in the Faerøe-Channel specimen.

On comparing with the above form a typical *Crossaster papposus* of the same diameter, it will be found that in the latter the rays, which are eleven to thirteen in number, are less tapering and relatively longer, the proportion being $R > 2.5 r$. The abactinal area of the disk is very little higher than the rays. The paxillæ are larger, fewer, more widely spaced, and bear a greater number of spinelets, usually about forty, which are arranged much more compactly and give the paxillæ a more rounded appearance,—often resembling that of a well-worn brush, the central spinelets being longest. The papulæ are more numerous, five to ten or more. The spinelets of the adambulacral armature are three in number in the inner or furrow series,—a fourth very minute one, placed aborally, being present near the mouth. The transverse combs consist of five spinelets, those near the furrow series the longest; line of base straight; webbing at the base more or less present. All the spinelets are more delicate in character than in the variety. Mouth-plates with delicate spines; secondary mouth-spines not more than two or three. Interradial areas quite naked, or with only one or two small paxillæ.

This variety conforms in several respects with the admirable description given by Danielssen and Koren¹ of the form they refer to the *Solaster affinis* of Brandt. The differences are, however, so marked that I cannot regard them as one and the same form; and in none of the specimens which I have examined from either the "Porcupine" or the

¹ *Nyt Mag. f. Naturvidensk.*, 1877, Bd. xxiii, 3, p. 57; Den Norske Nordhavs-Expedition, 1876-1878, Zoologi, xi. Asteroidea, 1884, p. 44, tab. viii. fig. 11, tab. ix. figs. 7, 8, 14.