

"Triton" Expedition:

Station 2. In the Faerøe Channel. August 5, 1882. Lat. $59^{\circ} 37' 30''$ N., long. $6^{\circ} 49' 0''$ W. Depth 530 fathoms. Bottom temperature $46^{\circ} \cdot 2$ Fahr.

1a. *Pteraster militaris*, var. *prolata*, Sladen.

Pteraster militaris, var. *prolata*, Sladen, Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin., vol. xxxii. p. 153, pl. xxvi. fig. 1.

This variety is characterised by the following points:—The great length and narrowness of the rays. $R > 3 r$; $R = 58$ to 60 mm.; $r = 18$ mm.; breadth of a ray at the base, 18 to 22 mm. extreme measure. The abactinal paxillæ appear usually to have one of their spinelets much more robust than the two or three companion spinelets, which are remarkably fine and delicate, and the tips of the spinelets can scarcely be said to protrude through the supradorsal membrane, notwithstanding that this latter is placed loosely upon them and much wrinkled. Two or three lineal series of paxillæ are more or less clearly distinguishable along the sides of the rays. On the actinal surface the segmental apertures are remarkably large, and the aperture-papillæ are much broader and more robust at their proximal portion than in *Pteraster militaris*. In the armature of the adambulacral plates the inner three spines of each transverse comb form a line oblique to the furrow, the comb being curved aborally at the margin of the furrow, and the position of these spines upon the adambulacral plate being also oblique in relation to the plane of the ray. The actino-lateral spines are very short, and the outer portion of the web which proceeds from the outermost spine of the adambulacral armature, i.e., the membranous continuation of the transverse comb upon the actinal membrane, is much more prominent than in the typical form of the species, and extends up to the margin of the lateral fringe. Although these differences may appear insignificant verbally, they produce when combined a striking facies, the characters of which can hardly be explained, as being simply the modifications of the normal form consequent on the conditions of a deep-water habitat, since an example of *Pteraster militaris* from 530 fathoms from a neighbouring station, differs in no way from the normal form.

Locality.—"Triton" Expedition:

Station 9. In the Faerøe Channel. August 23, 1882. Lat. $60^{\circ} 5' 0''$ N., long. $6^{\circ} 21' 0''$ W. Depth 608 fathoms. Bottom temperature $30^{\circ} \cdot 0$ Fahr.

Remarks.—This is a remarkable form, differing greatly in general appearance from the normal type of *Pteraster militaris*; and although it accords in the main with the diagnostic formula of that species, the majority of the characters differ more or less in degree. It is not improbable that a series of examples might ultimately warrant its being ranked as a distinct species; but for the present I prefer to place the solitary specimen known to me as a variety of *Pteraster militaris*, until further material is available, a course which is sufficient to identify the form and at the same time indicate the nearest specific affinities.