

Supradorsal membrane an irregularly developed, somewhat spongiform, tissue. No muscular fibrous bands. No spicules. Paxillæ with moderately expanded crowns composed of a great number of fine, long, hair-like spinelets (fifteen to thirty), their extremities protruding freely through the membrane. Paxillæ invested with a well-developed membranous envelope.

Adambulacral armature forming transverse combs, consisting of spines webbed together; the spinelets more or less horizontal in position, overspanning the furrow.

Mouth-plates with one secondary or superficial spine on the actinal surface, connected with the mouth-spine series by a continuation of the web. Mouth-spines proper three on each plate, webbed together.

Actino-lateral spines merged in the actinal floor; no independent marginal fringe.

*Remarks.*—This genus is nearly related to *Pteraster*,—from which, however, it is distinguished by the rudimentary character of the supradorsal membrane, devoid of muscular fibrous bands; by the actino-lateral spines being merged in the actinal floor; and by the absence of a marginal fringe. Furthermore, the numerous hair-like spinelets of the paxillæ protruding through the supradorsal membrane give a peculiar character to the abactinal area; and the spines which constitute the armature of the adambulacral plates, from their high position in the furrow and from their more or less horizontal direction, present a feature unknown in the other members of the group.

The representatives of this genus collected by the Challenger are all from the Pacific; the occurrence of an Atlantic species is, however, reported by Perrier<sup>1</sup> in a summary of the novelties obtained by the "Talisman" Expedition, but no description has yet been published, and the position of the dredging station is not stated.

#### *Chorology of the Genus Marsipaster.*

##### *a. Geographical distribution:—*

ATLANTIC: One species between the parallels of 10° and 50° N.

*Marsipaster alveolatus*, dredged by the "Talisman" Expedition.

PACIFIC: Two species between the parallels of 30° and 40° S.

*Marsipaster spinosissimus*, in the Mid-South Pacific, near the meridian of 135° W. *Marsipaster hirsutus*, between Valparaiso and the Island of Juan Fernandez.

*β. Bathymetrical range:* 2160 to 2335 fathoms.

*γ. Nature of the Sea-bottom:* *Marsipaster spinosissimus* on Red clay; *Marsipaster hirsutus* on Blue mud.

<sup>1</sup> *Ann. Sci. Nat. (Zool.)*, 1885, 6e Série, t. xix. Art. No. 8, p. 69.