

my opinion, inadequate and artificial; and I have been led to formulate a classification more in accordance with morphological characters as at present understood. I venture to believe that this will be found more convenient for general workers, as well as more natural.

In dealing with the synonymy of a species I have in each case given all the different name-combinations under which the form has been recognised and the author by whom each was originated, but I have not given a citation of all subsequent writers by whom the terms have been copied or used. By this means brevity has been gained, without sacrificing anything pertinent to the history of the name.

In order to add to the completeness of the work, I have given under each genus a notice of all authentic species belonging thereto, and their geographical distribution. I have also added at the end of the Report a synoptic list of the known species of recent Asteroidea, with particulars of their geographical and bathymetrical distribution, the changes of name to which they have been subjected, and their synonyms, which I hope will increase the utility of the Report. A few species which have been inadvertently omitted in the chorological statement of the genera will be found duly recorded in this list. 137 genera and 810 species are here enumerated.

The urgent need of a critical examination by one person of the large number of types distributed throughout the various Continental collections has long been felt by every worker at the group, as many of the types in question have been very imperfectly known, and, owing to insufficient description, numberless false determinations and a confusing multiplication of synonymous terms have arisen. To eliminate as far as possible this element of perplexity, I have visited the chief Continental museums and have personally studied the rich collections at Christiania, Stockholm, Lund, Copenhagen, Leyden, Paris, Berlin, Kiel, Hamburg, Leipzig, Breslau, and Vienna. I venture to believe that the labour thus expended will place the list now given on a more reliable basis than was previously possible.

I desire to acknowledge gratefully the privileges afforded me in this undertaking, and to express my hearty thanks to the Heads of the various universities and museums, who, without exception, placed the collections under their charge unreservedly at my disposal. To the many eminent naturalists who have given me valuable assistance and information I desire to tender my sincere thanks. Some obligations are acknowledged in the text, and in addition to those I cannot refrain from naming here the late Prof. M. Esmark and Dr. Robert Collett of Christiania; Prof. S. Lovén of Stockholm; Dr. Hjalmar Thée of Upsala; Dr. C. D. E. Roth of Lund; Prof. J. J. S. Steenstrup and Prof. Chr. F. Lütken of Copenhagen; the late Prof. H. Schlegel and Dr. F. A. Jentink of Leyden; Prof. Edmond Perrier and M. J. Poirier of Paris; the late Prof. W. Peters, Prof. Ed. von Martens and Dr. F. Hilgendorff of Berlin; Prof. Karl Möbius of Kiel; Prof. H. A. Pagenstecher and Dr. G. Pfeffer of Hamburg; Prof. R. Leuckart and Prof. J. V. Carus of Leipzig; Prof. Anton Schneider of Breslau; Dr. F. Steindachner and Dr. Emil von