

details in an outline sketch of our attempt to put together the scattered evidences and to trace the lost records of the pedigree of life.

The following is a summary of the classification I have adopted :—

CLASS ASTEROIDEA.

Sub-class EUASTEROIDEA, Sladen, 1886.¹

Order I. PHANEROZONIA, Sladen, 1886.

[STENOPNEUSIA : EURYSTROTERIA.]

Euasteroidea with marginal plates large and highly developed in the adult. The supero-marginal and the infero-marginal plates contingent and with their axes usually in parallel planes. Papulæ restricted to the abactinal area, circumscribed by the supero-marginal plates. Ambulacral plates well spaced and usually broad, the development of the ambulacral skeleton being retarded, or concurrent with that of the test generally. Actinostomial ring with the adambulacral plates prominent. Pedicellariæ valvate, foraminate, or excavate.

Family I. ARCHASTERIDÆ (Viguiier, 1878), *emend.* Sladen, 1886.

Phanerozonate Asterids with thick and massive marginal plates bearing spines or spiniform papillæ. Abactinal skeleton with simple spiniform spicules, with pseudo-paxillæ, or with true paxillæ. Actinal interradial areas with plates bearing spinelets. Adambulacral plates large and not compressed. Proctuchous. Pedicellariæ frequently present. No superambulacral plates.

Subfamily 1. PARARCHASTERINÆ, Sladen, 1886.

Archasteridæ with the papulæ confined to a limited area at the base of the ray. Marginal plates more or less alternate. Actinal intermediate plates absent or very few in number.

Genus 1. *Pararchaster*, Sladen.

Genus 2. *Pontaster*, Sladen.

Subfamily 2. PLUTONASTERINÆ, Sladen, 1886.

Archasteridæ with the papulæ distributed over the whole abactinal area. Marginal plates opposite. Actinal intermediate plates well developed. No definite medio-radial line of abactinal plates.

Genus 1. *Dytaster*, Sladen.

Genus 2. *Plutonaster*, Sladen.

Genus 3. *Lonchotaster*, Sladen.

¹ Date when the corresponding sheet of the descriptive portion of this work left my hands for press.