

the Linnean type of *Asterias pectinata* and the new form which he proposed to call *Asterias tenella*. He described the habitat of the latter as "St Croix"; and this is given as the island of "Santa Cruz" in Gmelin's edition of the *Systema Naturæ*, where *Asterias tenella* is added to *Asterias pectinata* and *Asterias multiradiata* of the earlier editions.

Lamarck took but little notice of these three species when he established the genus *Comatula*. *Asterias pectinata* was not noticed by him at all, though he proposed a new name, *Comatula mediterranea*, for Linck's *Decacnemos rosacea*, which had been included by Linnaeus in *Asterias pectinata*; while he referred *Asterias tenella* with a ? to his new species *Comatula brachiolata*,<sup>1</sup> which we now know to be an *Actinometra* closely allied to the type of *Asterias pectinata*. Lamarck, however, was the only post-Linnean zoologist who recognised that *Asterias tenella* was a Comatulid and not a Star-fish, a fact which would seem sufficiently obvious when we remember that Retzius had pointed out how it had been hitherto confused with *Asterias pectinata*. Goldfuss, indeed, gave the name *Comatula tenella* to a fossil from Solenhofen, which was one of the four species subsequently placed by Agassiz in his new genus *Saccocoma*.

*Asterias tenella* seems to have entirely escaped the notice of Johannes Müller when he examined the Retzian collection at Lund in 1841, and it has consequently altogether dropped out of the literature. The original of the type, however, is still extant, together with the examples of *Asterias pectinata* and *Asterias multiradiata* from the Indian Seas which are the types of these two species respectively. I have been privileged to examine all three, and find *Asterias tenella* to be very different from *Asterias pectinata*, for it is identical with the well-known Scandinavian species which was described in 1844 by Düben and Koren as *Alecto sarsii*.<sup>2</sup> This specific name has been in use for nearly forty years, and the range of the type was extended to lat. 70° N. by the "Willem Barents"; while the "Porcupine" had previously dredged it at various localities in the Færoe Channel and also at 740 fathoms as far south in the Atlantic as lat. 39° N.

In the year 1880, however, the same species was obtained several times off the coast of New England by the explorations of the United States Coast Survey and Fish Commission. Two years later Mr. Verrill<sup>3</sup> recognised that *Alecto dentata*, which was described by Say in 1825 from a specimen found at Great Egg Harbour, New Jersey, is identical with *Antedon sarsii*, which occurs in abundance at various depths off the American coast from New Jersey to Nova Scotia. A restoration of Say's specific name thus became inevitable, and the association of the type with the familiar name of a deservedly honoured Norwegian naturalist was no longer possible. Now, however, it appears that forty-two years before the publication of Say's name Retzius had described the same species from the American coast, and I have much pleasure therefore in restoring his name.

<sup>1</sup> *Op. cit.*, p. 535.

<sup>2</sup> Öfversigt af Skandinaviens Echinodermer, *K. Svensk. Vetensk. Akad. Handl.*, 1844 (1846), p. 231, t. vi. fig. 2.

<sup>3</sup> Notice of the remarkable Marine Fauna occupying the outer banks off the Southern Coast of New England, No. 4, *Amer. Journ. Sci. and Arts*, 1882, vol. xxiii. p. 222.