

Station 90.¹ In the Faerøe Channel. Lat. 59° 41' 0" N., long. 7° 34' 0" W. Depth 458 fathoms. Bottom temperature 7°·3 C.; surface temperature 11°·7 C.

Station 65. In the Faerøe Channel. Lat. 61° 10' 0" N., long. 2° 21' 0" W. Depth 345 fathoms. Bottom temperature 1°·1 C.; surface temperature 11°·1 C.

1a. *Pontaster tenuispinus*, var. *platynota*, nov. (Pl. VI. fig. 7; Pl. VII. figs. 3 and 4).

There appear to be at least two well-marked forms of *Pontaster tenuispinus*, one of which may be looked upon as typical and the other as representing a variety, which for convenience of reference may appropriately be spoken of as *Pontaster tenuispinus*, var. *platynota*.

The variety is characterised by its large disk, by the rapid attenuation of the rays at a short distance above their base, by the numerous large spines on the actinal surface of the adambulacral plates, and indeed by the well-developed spiculation of the actinal surface generally. Several well-developed spinelets are frequently present on the supero-marginal plates, and the number of spinelets composing the paxillæ on the disk is greater. It is further to be noted that the two-jawed pedicellariæ on the adambulacral plates are usually specially developed and large, the jaws being widely dilated and spatuliform, or of a pronounced spoon-bill shape. The habit of the variety is much larger than that of any examples which I have seen of the type-form.

Remarkably fine specimens have been procured from the cold water area in the Faerøe Channel in depths of 363 to 608 fathoms, and well-marked examples of the variety were likewise obtained off Valentia in 100 to 150 fathoms.

These latter show at the same time a facies of their own, the result of the association of several trivial but well-marked differences, which, although scarcely definable separately, are sufficient to produce a characteristic aspect whereby the specimens from this locality may be distinguished from any others with which I have compared them. At one time I was under the impression that the large-disked forms were only an older or more luxuriant stage of growth of the examples which I have called the type-form, and I recorded these specimens in my Reports upon the Asteroidea of the "Knight Errant"² and "Triton"³ cruises under the simple name of *Archaster tenuispinus*; but after a careful study of the series which I have had the opportunity of examining, it seems undeniable that this explanation is not sufficient to account for the differences, because the smallest specimen in my possession—which measures R=11 mm., r=3 mm.—already presents characters which show that it belongs unquestionably to the variety. This circumstance has strengthened my decision in recognising the form as a well-marked and nameworthy variety.

¹ This occurrence is recorded in Sir Wyville Thomson's Depths of the Sea; but I have not seen a specimen.

² *Proc. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, 1881-82, vol. xi. p. 699.

³ *Trans. Roy. Soc. Edin.*, 1883, vol. xxxii. p. 154.