

*Synopsis of the Species included in the Genus Porcellanaster herein described.*

- A. One cribriform organ in each interbrachial arc. Adambulacral plates with two or three spines. No segmental pits or papillæ.
- a. Rays short. Abactinal membrane with spinelets confined to limited areas . . . . . *cæruleus*.
- b. Rays long. Abactinal membrane entirely covered with spinelets.
- a. Rays tapering. Spines on each supero-marginal plate, long and delicate. Terminal plate small, with five spines. Spinelets of disk clavate . . . . . *caulifer*.
- b. Rays broad and robust. Spines on two plates only, stout. Terminal plate large and tubercular, with three spines. Spinelets of disk cylindrical . . . . . *tuberosus*.
- B. Three cribriform organs in each interbrachial arc. Adambulacral plates with one spine. Segmental pits and papillæ present.
- a. Rays long and robust. Abactinal membrane entirely covered with spinelets. Spines on each supero-marginal plate, long and thick . . . . . *crassus*.
- b. Rays short and delicate. Abactinal membrane with spinelets confined to limited areas. No spines on the supero-marginal plates or only rudimentary . . . . . *gracilis*.

*Porcellanaster eremicus* is not included in the foregoing table on account of its very immature condition. To place the characters presented by such an early phase of growth in comparison with those pertaining to the adult stage of the forms above mentioned would clearly be not only useless but misleading.

Two species of *Porcellanaster* are "named" by M. Perrier<sup>1</sup> amongst the material dredged by the "Talisman," but no description has been published. The forms consequently cannot be recognised.

*Chorology of the Genus Porcellanaster.*a. *Geographical distribution* :—

ATLANTIC: Two species between the parallels of 50° N. and 40° S.

*Porcellanaster cæruleus* off the eastern coast of the United States of America. *Porcellanaster eremicus* midway between the Cape of Good Hope and the Island of Tristan da Cunha.

PACIFIC: Three species between the parallels of 40° N. and 40° S.

*Porcellanaster tuberosus* off the coast of Japan, south of Kawatsu. *Porcellanaster crassus* in the mid south Pacific, near the meridian of 135° W., approximately midway between Sydney and Valparaiso. *Porcellanaster gracilis* off the western coast of South America, between Valparaiso and the Island of Juan Fernandez.

<sup>1</sup> *Comptes rendus*, 1885, t. ci. p. 886.