

In a recent paper on the starfishes collected during the "Talisman" Expedition, M. Perrier<sup>1</sup> still maintains *Caulaster* as a distinct genus, and mentions the occurrence of a second species, with which he has done me the honour of associating my name. Unfortunately, however, no additional information is given on the structure of *Caulaster*. Under these circumstances I feel assured that M. Perrier will acquit me of any undue pertinacity in still upholding the opinion I expressed in 1883,<sup>2</sup> confronted as I am now with the structure of *Porcellanaster eremicus*. No other course seems open to me, and I am therefore reluctantly obliged to follow it so long as the present state of insufficient information on the generic characters of *Caulaster* exists.

The only remark upon the genus made by Perrier in the paper referred to is as follows:—"Les *Caulaster* (*Caulaster pedunculatus*, E. P., *Caulaster Sladeni*, E. P.) sont caractérisés par l'absence presque complète du squelette dorsal, représenté seulement par cinq bandelettes épineuses descendant du pédoncule dorsal et exactement interradiales."<sup>3</sup> This limitation of the spinelets on the abactinal area to interradianal bands occurs in two of the species of *Porcellanaster* known to me (and mentioned in my Preliminary Notices),<sup>4</sup> and is especially characteristic of the type of the genus, *Porcellanaster cœruleus*.

#### Genus *Styracaster*, Sladen.

*Styracaster*, Sladen, Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.), 1883, vol. xvii. p. 229.

Rays five, long and attenuate, incapable of being reverted.

Supero-marginal plates meet in the median radial line, and encase the ray; they bear long, robust, cylindro-conical spines, which form a single series along the median radial line.

Abactinal area covered with membrane, beset with simple spiniferous spicules or with pseudo-paxillæ. Usually no specially developed epiproctal prolongation is present, but a more or less definite conical elevation may be formed.

Actinal interradianal areas paved with thin, smooth plates, arranged in regular columns, more or less clearly imbricating, and covered with a delicate membrane.

Ambulacral furrows narrow and more or less enclosed. Armature of the ambulacral plates consisting of elongate needle-shaped spines, and with a tendency to radiate apart.

Cribriform organs three to seven in number in each interbrachial arc.

*Remarks.*—The form mentioned by Perrier,<sup>5</sup> under the name of *Machairaster pictus*, as allied to *Porcellanaster*, but of which no generic diagnosis or description has yet been published, beyond the remark "à bras carénés et portant des épines sur la carène,"

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

<sup>2</sup> *Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.)*, 1883, vol. xvii. p. 217.

<sup>3</sup> *Loc. cit.*, p. 886.

<sup>4</sup> *Journ. Linn. Soc. Lond. (Zool.)*, 1883, vol. xvii. p. 214.

<sup>5</sup> *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 2e Série, 1884, t. vi. p. 272.