

3. *Ctenodiscus procurator*, n. sp. (Pl. XXX. figs. 7-12).

This form has so many points of close resemblance to the North-Atlantic *Ctenodiscus corniculatus* that examples might be selected which at first sight would easily be mistaken for that species. A number of small differences, however, present themselves when a large series is examined, which appear sufficiently constant to warrant the recognition of this form as a distinct species. Under these circumstances the description of *Ctenodiscus procurator* will probably be most intelligible if it takes the form of a comparative review of the characters of this species in relation to those of the two previously known species of *Ctenodiscus*, viz., *Ctenodiscus corniculatus* of the North Atlantic, and *Ctenodiscus australis*, Lütken, from the East of Patagonia.

When these three species are compared *inter se* it is evident that in many respects *Ctenodiscus corniculatus*, though so widely separated geographically, appears to occupy an intermediate classificatory position between *Ctenodiscus australis* and *Ctenodiscus procurator*, which inhabit the eastern and western sides respectively of South America. In *Ctenodiscus procurator* the rays are generally a trifle longer, and, even when not actually so, have at least that appearance in consequence of being slightly narrower at the base and more attenuate and pointed outwardly. The abactinal area is plane, its union with the lateral wall, especially in the region of the disk and the base of the rays, forming a sharp angle in consequence of the rapid adoral slope of the whole lateral wall; the supero-marginal plates being also affected in the majority of cases. This feature at once strikes the eye in comparison with the usually vertical and actinally well-rounded margin of *Ctenodiscus corniculatus* and the thick and tumid one of *Ctenodiscus australis*.

The paxillæ of the abactinal area are small and crowded, similar to those in *Ctenodiscus corniculatus*. The madreporiform body is distinct and not hidden by paxillæ as in *Ctenodiscus australis*. The marginal plates appear to be invariably rather more numerous than in *Ctenodiscus corniculatus*, and consequently still more so than in *Ctenodiscus australis*;—for example, in a specimen of *Ctenodiscus procurator*, measuring $R = 28.5$ mm., there are eighteen supero-marginal plates counting from the median interradian line to the extremity; whereas in *Ctenodiscus corniculatus* of exactly the same radial dimensions ($R = 28.5$ mm.) there are only fifteen. *Ctenodiscus corniculatus*, with $R = 27$ mm., has fourteen supero-marginal plates; *Ctenodiscus procurator*, with $R = 27$ mm., has seventeen. *Ctenodiscus procurator* appears to have generally one or more spines less on the adambulacral plates than in *Ctenodiscus corniculatus*, three only being actually marginal or furrow spines, and a fourth standing backward and on the actinal surface of the plate at the aboral end. Very rarely indeed are four furrow spines present; whereas four and five are general in *Ctenodiscus corniculatus*.

From the foregoing remarks it will be seen that *Ctenodiscus procurator* is much more closely allied to the North-Atlantic *Ctenodiscus corniculatus* than to the comparatively neighbouring form *Ctenodiscus australis*, from which it is readily distinguished. On the