

placed spinelets. A double line is present on the surface of the plate, those near the middle line of the mouth-angle being large, robust, compressed transversely, and with tips obtusely rounded, and increasing in size towards the inner extremity of the plate. The innermost spines of the mouth-angle form a short horizontal comb of four parallel spines directed towards the centre of the mouth. The margins of the mouth-plates are fringed with a line of about eight small ciliary spines, which decrease in size and robustness as they recede from the mouth.

The madreporiform body, which is small, slightly convex, and with fine striations, is placed at about its own breadth distant from the marginal plates.

The ambulacral tube-feet are pointed, and the extreme tip appears to be very slightly thickened.

The terminal (ocular) plate is elongate, and armed at the extremity with four or five short, robust spinelets directed outward.

Colour in alcohol, brownish grey.

*Locality*.—Off Inaccessible Island, Tristan da Cunha. Depth 90 fathoms.

*Remarks*.—This species is in many respects a very abnormal *Astropecten*. So far as general formula is concerned its nearest ally in that genus is *Astropecten pentacanthus*, Delle Chiaje, sp., but the facies of the two forms is altogether different, and they could not possibly be mistaken. The character of the abactinal paxillæ (the pedicle being represented only by a broad tubercular eminence of the plate) and the great development of the actinal interradial areas are altogether unlike any *Astropecten* with which I am acquainted. It is not without hesitation that I have admitted the form into the genus.

Two specimens of *Astropecten* obtained by the "Gazelle" near the eastern coast of South America (off Buenos Ayres) in lat. 34° 43' 7" S., long. 52° 36' 1" W., at a depth of 44 fathoms, have been referred by Professor Th. Studer<sup>1</sup> to this species.

#### Genus *Psilaster*, Sladen.

*Psilaster*, Sladen in Narr. Chall. Exp., 1885, vol. i. p. 611.

Disk small. Rays moderately long, robust and high at the base, tapering to a pointed extremity.

Marginal plates plane or slightly tumid, not forming a ridge or highly developed fasciolar groove. The surface of the plates is covered with small papilliform squamules or granules. The supero-marginal plates are devoid of large spines or tubercles. The infero-marginal plates may bear several small spinelets, appressed to the ray, disposed in series near the lateral margin and usually near the aboral edge of the plate.

Abactinal area with compact paxillæ, composed of short papilliform spinelets, and arranged usually in regular transverse lines at the sides of the ray.

<sup>1</sup> *Anhang z. d. Abhandl. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, vom Jahre 1884, p. 46.