

1. Form pentagonal, sides distinctly rectilinear. Marginal plates ordinarily few in number *Pentagonaster.*
2. Form more or less pentagonal. Extremities of the rays dilated or rounded. Marginal plates few in number *Astrogonium.*
- ii. Marginal plates with tubercles *Calliaster.*
- β . All plates covered with membrane, and bearing only single, isolated, prominent, obtuse spinelets or elongate tubercles. No papulae (?). No pedicellariae *Chitonaster.*
- γ . Actinal intermediate and infero-marginal plates spinulate, and with small prominent spinelets interspersed. Abactinal plates granulose *Calliderma.*
- b. Supero-marginal plates united throughout the length of the ray. Abactinal plates confined entirely to the disk. Abactinal plates margined by peculiar valve-like plates. Abactinal plates naked *Iconaster.*
- b. Abactinal area with paxilliform plates.
 - a. Paxillae usually stollate and spinose. Mouth-plates with a prominent keel, developed aborally into a hyaline spiniform prolongation. Tegumentary covering of the whole test more or less spiniform or papilliform. With odd interradial marginal plates *Gnathaster.*
 - b. Paxillae tabulate, bearing granules or papillae usually prismatic in form. Mouth-plates not keeled or prominent. No odd interradial marginal plates.
 - a. Paxillae confined to the disk-area. Rays long. Supero-marginal plates uniting in the median radial line, or separated only by a single series of quadrato plates.
 - i. Adambulacral armature arranged in longitudinal series. Infero-marginal plates devoid of prominent tegumentary spinelets. With entrenched pedicellariae *Nymphaster.*
 - ii. Adambulacral armature palmo-radiate and transverse. Infero-marginal plates spiniferous and with small prominent spinelets. No pedicellariae *Paragonaster.*
 - β . Paxillae extending along the ray. Supero-marginal plates separated by several series of paxillae. Small valvate pedicellariae only, and very few in number.
 - i. Marginal plates large and conspicuous. Abactinal plates small and not developed into large cylindrical tabula. Pedicellariae present *Mediaster.*
 - ii. Marginal plates comparatively small. Abactinal plates very large, with enormous cylindrical tabula, bearing co-ordinated granules. No pedicellariae *Nectria.*