

my judgment the name *Astrogonium*, Müller and Troschel, 1842, has, for the reasons above stated, a ten years' priority, irrespective altogether of usage, which ought not to be set aside in favour of *Stephanaster*, and it is therefore to this group only, in my opinion, that the name *Astrogonium* can logically be applied.

The small series of species which have now to be considered are readily distinguished by certain structural characters from all the other *Pentagonasteridæ*. I propose to group them together under the generic name of *Gnathaster*, and define the genus by the following characters:—

- (1.) Plates of the abactinal area more or less truly paxilliform.
- (2.) Tegumentary developments more or less spiniform.
- (3.) Mouth-plates with a prominent keel developed into an elongate spiniform process.
- (4.) An odd interradial marginal plate present in most, if not in all, cases.

In this genus I include the species previously described under the following names:—

*Goniodiscus singularis*, Müller and Troschel.  
*Astrogonium miliare*, Gray.  
*Astrogonium paxillosum*, Gray.

*Pentagonaster dilatatus*, Perrier.  
*Astrogonium meridionale*, Smith.  
*Calliderma grayi*, Bell.

To these are added two new species discovered by the Challenger.

### *Chorology of the Genus Gnathaster.*

#### a. *Geographical distribution*:—

**ATLANTIC**: Three species between the parallels of 50° and 60° S.

\**Gnathaster pilulatus*, near the Atlantic entrance to the Strait of Magellan. *Gnathaster grayi* and *Gnathaster paxillosus*, at Sandy Point in the Strait of Magellan. The latter species is also found in the Eastern Archipelago off the coast of North Australia.

**PACIFIC**: Three species between the parallels of 30° and 55° S.

*Gnathaster singularis*, off the west coast of South America.  
*Gnathaster miliaris* and *Gnathaster dilatatus*, off New Zealand.

**EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO**: One species between the parallels of 5° and 15° S.

*Gnathaster paxillosus*, from Port Essington, off North Australia.  
 This species also occurs in the Strait of Magellan (*vide* Bell<sup>1</sup>).

**SOUTHERN OCEAN**: Two species between the parallels of 40° and 60° S.

\**Gnathaster meridionalis* and \**Gnathaster elongatus*, off Marion Island, Kerguelen Island, and Heard Island.

The species collected by the Challenger are indicated in the foregoing list by an asterisk.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1881, p. 97.