

are hexagonal and diminish in size as they approach the margin, and do not assume the form of paxillæ. A longitudinal series of plates rather larger than the rest proceeds along the median radial line, and the other plates are arranged in longitudinal series parallel to this. The primary embryonic plates are discernible. All the plates are covered with uniform, small, semiglobular, miliary granules distinctly spaced and without any order of arrangement excepting a definite marginal series. The granules on the centre of the larger plates are the faintest trace larger than the rest. All the plates have the appearance of being definitely spaced in consequence of the position of the marginal granules, though the distance of separation is very narrow. When the granules are removed the plates may be seen to be in contact with six adjacent plates by small extensions of the respective plates, and that single papulæ occupy the interspaces. A number of the plates bear small pedicellariæ, the jaws of which resemble those of the entrenched pedicellariæ, but are smaller; and they are placed over a simple perforation in the plate, without the slit-like trench for the disposal of the jaws.

The anal aperture lies external to the dorso-central plate.

The madreporiform body is rather large, prominent, button-like, and lies external to a pair of plates which appear to be the representatives of the basal plate. Its position on the disk is about one-third of the distance between the centre and the margin. The striations are fine and numerous. A cycle of rather large plates surrounds the dorso-central plate and intervenes between this and the under-basals (?).

Colour in alcohol, a very light brownish white.

Locality.—Station 3. South-West of the Canary Islands. February 18, 1873. Lat. 25° 45' 0" N., long. 20° 14' 0" W. Depth 1525 fathoms. Hard ground. Bottom temperature 37°·0 Fabr.; surface temperature 63°·0 Fahr.

Remarks.—A comparative review of the characters of *Nymphaster protentus* in relation to those of its allies will be found embodied in the descriptions of *Nymphaster albidus* and *Nymphaster basilicus*.

This species is readily distinguished from *Nymphaster symbolicus* and *Nymphaster bipunctus* by the character of the abactinal radial plates, by the junction of the supero-marginal plates in the median abactinal line throughout the ray, and by the absence of entrenched pedicellariæ on the marginal plates.

4. *Nymphaster albidus*, n. sp. (Pl. LI. figs. 1 and 2; Pl. LIII. figs. 5 and 6).

A single example of a *Nymphaster* was dredged near the Cape Verde Islands, which has a minor radius of 13 mm., and the longest remaining portion of the major radius measuring 48 mm. I am in much doubt as to whether it is an immature stage of *Nymphaster protentus* or a distinct species. Owing to our total ignorance of the actual growth phases of *Nymphaster protentus*, the former view would be purely conjectural; and as the differ-