

near the extremity of the ray. In *Nymphaster albidus* the rays appear to be comparatively narrower at the base and consequently more slender, and they taper less gradually.

*Locality*.—Off the Cape Verde Islands. (Exact position and conditions not recorded.)

5. *Nymphaster basilicus*, n. sp. (Pl. LVII. figs. 8 and 9).

I have felt obliged to place a single example of *Nymphaster* dredged at Station 125 as a distinct species. The size of the specimen denotes a large robust form, but unfortunately in the present case each of the rays had suffered mutilation during life, and four of them are now represented only by dwarfed and imperfectly grown reproductions; it is consequently impossible to give accurately the measurement of the major radius or the number of the supero-marginal plates. The minor radius measures 28.5 mm.; and judging from a ray which has been mutilated, but not entirely removed, as in the case of the other four, the major radius was about 91 mm. or more, for the extremity even in this ray is not absolutely perfect.

The plates of the abactinal paxillar area are regularly hexagonal, those of the radial regions are nearly uniform in size in the respective series, and diminish slightly as they proceed outward. All are definitely and uniformly spaced slightly apart, the isolated and regularly placed papulæ being visible. The plates of the interradian regions, on the other hand, are smaller and closely crowded; and from the fact that they diminish in size as they approach the margin of the disk, the plates, which are arranged in longitudinal series parallel to the median radial series, also appear to fall into series obliquely transverse, passing from the median line to the margin of the disk, towards which they converge slightly in consequence of the decrease of size above mentioned. Nearly all the larger plates carry one of the small pedicellariæ in a pit, always placed near the margin of the plate, and rarely two are present. The dorso-central plate and its surrounding circlet of plates, which intervene between it and the basals and under-basals, are large and distinct. The anal aperture lies external to the dorso-central plate, and the madreporiform body is independent of, and lies external to, its adjacent basal plate, which is rather smaller. There is a little depression in the triangular interradian regions which gives a slight appearance of convexity to the radial regions.

In the armature of the adambulacral plates, the furrow series of spinelets accords with those already described in *Nymphaster protentus*, but there is no external series of spinelets as in that form, the whole of the outer portion of the plate, which is large, being covered with numerous small semiglobular granules, uniform in all respects with those on the actinal intermediate plates. The granules usually fall into three or four subregular longitudinal lines, but some of these may be angulated, and there is often considerable