

Genus *Leptogonaster*, Sladen.

*Leptogonaster*, Sladen in Narr. Chall. Exp., 1885, vol. i. p. 616.

Disk large, thin, pentagonal, capable of slight inflation. Rays moderately elongate, flat, broad at the base, tapering gradually to the extremity, and producing a widely rounded interbrachial arc. The whole abactinal area covered with a uniform granulation imbedded in membrane.

Marginal plates forming a well-defined border to the disk and rays, presenting a bevelled angular margin in the interbrachial arc, but a vertical wall on the outer half of the ray. The supero-marginal plates bear no spines. The infero-marginal plates bear on the bevelled angular margin in the interbrachial arc a longitudinal series of four or five short conical spinelets, which do not extend beyond the disk; along the ray, the infero-marginal plates bear a small tubercle or aborted spinelet, which becomes more definitely developed towards the extremity.

Abactinal area of the disk, which may be more or less inflated in the radial regions, covered with flat polygonal plates, overlaid with a uniform granulation imbedded in membrane. Papulæ numerous. Small, elongate, two-jawed pedicellariæ present here and there.

Adambulacral plates large and long: armature consisting of:—(1.) On the furrow margin a series of five to seven short, delicate spinelets, partially united by a membranous web and arranged in a semicircular comb. (2.) On the actinal surface, a single long pedicellaria at the adoral extremity; and two short conical spinelets standing side by side.

Actinal interradial areas covered with thin hexagonal intermediate plates, usually granulous, overlaid with a continuous layer of membrane. The plates adjacent to the adambulacral plates each bear a small valvate pedicellaria, resembling a subpapilliform tubercle. Small indistinct granules are present on the plates. Occasionally an inconspicuous pedicellaria is present on the plates in the inner series of intermediate plates.

Madreporiform body large and situated rather nearer the centre of the disk than midway on the interradial line.

Anal aperture subcentral.

Ambulacral tube-feet with a well-developed sucker disk.

*Remarks.*—I have been in considerable doubt as to the retention of this genus after the publication of M. Perrier's<sup>1</sup> memoir on the starfishes collected by the "Blake" Expedition. The figure given by him of *Anthenoides piercei*,<sup>2</sup> which is an indistinct photo-lithograph, led me to think that the present starfish and the West Indian one dredged by the "Blake" were congeneric forms; but it is expressly stated by Perrier in

<sup>1</sup> *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 1884, 2<sup>e</sup> Série, t. vi. pp. 127-276.

<sup>2</sup> *Op. cit.*, pl. viii. fig. 1.