

Valenciennes to a genus of fishes. Those who relinquish the claim of Linck's name of *Pentaceros* for this genus of starfishes on account of 1733 being a pre-Liunean date, and on the supposition that the name does not reappear in literature in connection with this group of animals until Gray's time, seem to me to take a most arbitrary view of the requirements of nomenclature, and one which I do not consider justifiable in the present case. To those who still adhere to the letter rather than the spirit of this canon of name-priority, I would point out that *Pentaceros* was used by Schulze¹ exactly in Linck's sense in 1760, after ten editions of the *Systema Naturæ* had been published, and that it was also used by Schröter² in 1782. There is consequently no valid reason whatever for relinquishing this well-known name, and the onus of employing a term already appropriated will rest with the ichthyologists.

Chorology of the Genus Pentaceros.

a. Geographical distribution:—

ATLANTIC: Three species between the parallels of 30° N. and 20° S. (A fourth species is doubtfully reputed to be from the Adriatic, but its occurrence has never been verified.)

**Pentaceros dorsatus*, off the Cape Verde Islands. *Pentaceros forcipulosus*, off the Coast of Guinea (West Africa). *Pentaceros reticulatus*, from the West Indies and Brazil, and extending to Freemantle, west coast of Australia. *Pentaceros carinatus* was recorded with doubt to be from the Adriatic, but no second example of the species has since been found.

INDIAN and SOUTHERN OCEANS: Fourteen or sixteen species between the parallels of 30° N. and 40° S.

Pentaceros mammillatus and *Pentaceros tuberculatus*, from the Red Sea, the former being also found at Mauritius, and the latter off the East Coast of Africa. (I have a strong impression that *Pentaceros tuberculatus* is only a synonym, or at most a variety, of *Pentaceros mammillatus*.) *Pentaceros hiulcus*, *Pentaceros turritus*, and *Pentaceros muricatus*, off Mauritius and Zanzibar, the last-named also off Madagascar and the Seychelle Islands; both *Pentaceros turritus* and *Pentaceros muricatus* extend into the Eastern Archipelago, the latter

¹ Betrachtung der versteinerten Seesterne u. ihre Theile. Warschau u. Dresden, 1760, p. 50.

² Musci Gottwaldiani Testaceorum, Stellarum marinarum et Coralliorum quæ supersunt Tabulæ (Die Conchylien, Seesterne und Meergewächse der ehemaligen Gottwaldtischen Naturaliensammlung nach den vorhandenen neun und vierzig Kupfertafeln mit einer kurzen Beschreibung begleitet von Johann Samuel Schröter). Nürnberg, 1782, p. 58.