

Chorological Synopsis of the Species.

	Ocean.	Range in Fathoms.	Nature of the Sea-bottom.
<i>Pentaceropsis obtusatus</i>	{ Eastern Archipelago and (?) Indian Ocean. }	Shallow water.

1. *Pentaceropsis obtusatus*, Bory de Saint Vincent, sp.

Asterias obtusatus, Bory de Saint Vincent, 1827, *Encycl. Méthod.*, 10e livr. p. 140, pl. ciii.

Oreaster obtusatus, Müller and Troschel, 1842, *System der Asteriden*, p. 50.

Pentaceros obtusatus, Perrier, 1876, *Révis. Stell. Mus.*, p. 249 (*Archives de Zool. expér.*, t. v. p. 65).

Locality.—Off Zebu, Philippine group. On the Reefs. Depth and conditions not recorded.

Genus *Culcita*, Agassiz.

Culcita, Agassiz, *Mém. Soc. Sci. Nat. Neuchatel*, 1835, t. i. p. 192.

All the species in this genus present a remarkable similarity of facies; and each is subject to considerable variation. In some cases a greater superficial difference exists between the growth stages of a species than between forms recognised as specifically distinct. As a natural result the determination of a limited number of examples of any of the forms is attended with considerable difficulty; and much confusion exists in the labelling of specimens preserved in different museums.

Only one species of *Culcita* was collected during the Challenger Expedition, which I have referred to the *Culcita novæ-guinæ* of Müller and Troschel.

*Chorology of the Genus Culcita.*a. *Geographical distribution*:—

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

Culcita coriacea, *Culcita pentangularis*, and *Culcita schmideliana*, off Mozambique; *Culcita coriacea* being found also in the Red Sea, and *Culcita schmideliana* at Zanzibar, Madagascar, and Mauritius; *Culcita pentangularis* and *Culcita schmideliana* extend into the Eastern Archipelago and Pacific, although the occurrence of *Culcita schmideliana* in the Pacific is perhaps doubtful. *Culcita veneris*, from the Island of St. Paul.

EASTERN ARCHIPELAGO: Four species between the parallels of 10° N. and 20° S.

Culcita novæ-guinæ, off the coast of New Guinea, extending to New Hanover (*fide* Studer). *Culcita pentangularis*, from Torres