

- b. With no median radial series. Abactinal plates not forming regular longitudinal series.
- a. Abactinal area devoid of plating. Actinal intermediate plates forming isolated bands in transverse series *Tylaster*.
- b. Abactinal area plated. Actinal area with large intermediate plates.
- α. Plates covered with membrane; usually devoid of spines or only rare isolated ones present *Porania*.
- β. Plates usually spinous, or with the whole membrane closely crowded with miliary spinelets.
- i. Margin angular, formed entirely by the infero-marginal plates. Supero-marginal plates hidden and inconspicuous.
1. Infero-marginal plates with a flattened comb of spinelets, which form a broad marginal fringe *Marginaster*.
2. Spines when borne on the marginal plates grouped and inconspicuous, not forming a marginal fringe.
1. Papulæ single and isolated. Adambulacral armature on the actinal surface of the plate in a grouped or double series *Rhægaster*.
2. Papulæ grouped. Adambulacral armature on the actinal surface of the plate in a single series *Poraniomorpha*.
- ii. Margin thick. Supero-marginal and infero-marginal plates superposed. Supero-marginal plates well-developed and conspicuous, subequal to the infero-marginal plates *Lasiaster*.

Genus *Gymnasteria*, Gray.

Asterope, Müller and Troschel, Monatsber. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, April 1840, p. 104 (*non* Philippi, 1840).

Gymnasteria, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1840, vol. vi. p. 278.

Asteropsis (pars), Müller and Troschel, System der Asteriden, 1842, p. 62.

This genus was first recognised by Müller and Troschel in 1840 under the name of *Asterope*, the *Asterias carinifera* of Lamarck being the type form. The name *Asterope*, however, was employed by Philippi in the same year for a Crustacean genus, and was not again used by Müller and Troschel. In their System der Asteriden, published in 1842, the same type was referred to a new genus named *Asteropsis*, and with it were associated the *Asterias pulvillus* of O. F. Müller and the *Asterias vernicina* of Lamarck. These three forms, however, constitute the types of three distinct genera, two of which were established by Gray in 1840 under the names of *Gymnasteria* and *Porania*, *Asterias carinifera* of Lamarck being referred to the former, and *Asterias pulvillus*, O. F. Müller, to the latter. Gray's names have consequently priority and are now