

Genus *Marginaster*, Perrier.

Marginaster, Perrier, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. Harvard, 1881, vol. ix. No. 1, p. 16; Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat., 2e Série, 1884, t. vi. p. 229.

Two species bearing this generic name were described by Perrier in 1881, and a third species was added by the same author¹ in the following year. A short diagnosis of the genus was first given in 1884. The descriptions of these interesting forms are unfortunately so brief and general that although two of the species are figured,² I feel some doubt as to whether all the three belong to one genus, and I have been unable to form any clear view as to the scope of the genus. It is, therefore, not without some hesitation that I now venture to describe a small starfish dredged during the "Porcupine" Expedition as a new species of *Marginaster*, but its characters appear to me to accord so closely with those mentioned as presented by *Marginaster pectinatus*, Perrier (which I presume may be considered as the type of the genus), that I prefer to take this course rather than burden nomenclature with what might ultimately prove to be a superfluous generic name. Under these circumstances it would be premature and injudicious in me to endeavour to formulate a more complete diagnosis of the genus, on the basis of the form which I have studied, until fuller information on the previously described species is available.

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

ATLANTIC : Four species between the parallels of 10° and 60° N.

Marginaster pectinatus, in the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Yucatan. *Marginaster echinulatus*, off Barbados. *Marginaster pentagonus*, "Talisman" dredging No. 37. *Marginaster fimbriatus*, between the north of Ireland and Rockall.

β. *Bathymetrical range* : 69 to 1360 fathoms.

γ. *Nature of the Sea-bottom* : Not recorded.

Chorological Synopsis of the Species.

	Ocean.	Range in Fathoms.	Nature of the Sea-bottom.
<i>Marginaster echinulatus</i> .	Atlantic.	69
<i>Marginaster fimbriatus</i> .	Atlantic.	1360
<i>Marginaster pentagonus</i> .	Atlantic.	218
<i>Marginaster pectinatus</i> .	Atlantic.	95

¹ Rapport sur les Travaux de la Commission chargée par M. le Ministre de l'Instruction publique d'étudier la Faune sous-marine dans les grandes profondeurs de la Méditerranée et de l'Océan Atlantique, par M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards, Membre de l'Institut. (Extrait des *Archives des Missions scientifiques et littéraires*. Troisième série.—Tome neuvième, Paris, 1882, p. 51.)

² *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 2e Série, 1884, t. vi. pl. i.