

examples it can scarcely be discerned at all. This is caused by a difference in the form of the abactinal plates, although the circumstance is scarcely apparent superficially owing to their membranous covering. The presence of this band suggests the character produced by the different form of the median and lateral series of abactinal plates in *Nepanthia*.

Subfamily ASTERININÆ, Sladen, 1888.

Genus *Patiria* (Gray), emend. Perrier.

Patiria, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1840, vol. vi. p. 290.

Patiria, as constituted by Gray, was an ill-defined group, which included forms that cannot be separated by any essential character from *Asterina*. The genus was subsequently, and with great justice, limited by Perrier to one of the three sections made by Gray, and comprised only two species, those named by him *Patiria ocellifera* and *Patiria crassa*. This view of the genus is the only one which can be maintained. A third species has been added by the Challenger. That *Patiria* is very closely allied to *Asterina* there can be no doubt; and a young form which I have referred to the species described below indicates this affinity even more closely than the adult forms, and suggests the assumption that *Patiria* is probably immediately descended from an *Asterina*-like ancestor. As known at present the genus is confined to the southern hemisphere; but the locality of one of the original species is unknown.

Chorology of the Genus *Patiria*.

a. Geographical distribution:—

ATLANTIC: One species between the parallels of 30° and 40° S.

Patiria bellula, from Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope.

INDIAN OCEAN: One species between the parallels of 10° and 50° S.

Patiria crassa from Western Australia.

β. Bathymetrical range: Shallow water.

γ. Nature of the sea-bottom: Not recorded.

Chorological Synopsis of the Species.

	Ocean.	Range in Fathoms.	Nature of the Sea-bottom.
<i>Patiria bellula</i> . . .	Atlantic.	Shallow water.	...
<i>Patiria crassa</i> . . .	Indian.
<i>Patiria ocellifera</i> . . .	?	?	...