in the larger groups in the interradial area. In some examples the spinelets are less robust, and there are fully twice as many in a group.

The madreporiform body, which is small, is situated nearer the centre than midway between that point and the margin. It has a papillose rather than a striated appearance, in consequence of the frequent division of the intervening ridges. Several large plates with spinelets surround the margin.

Colour in alcohol, an ashy grey or greyish white.

Young Phase.—There is a small example from the same locality, which I have no hesitation in referring to the same species. Its measurements are R = 20 mm., $r = 7{\cdot}5$ mm. The outer part of the rays is occupied only by large diamond-shaped plates with a pore at the angles. At the base of the rays and on the disk small plates are intercalated, and these usually have a pore at each side; the larger plates are more elongate transversely, and there is occasionally a tendency to assume the crescent shape, which appears, however, to be mainly caused by the slight arching of the group of spinelets borne on the plates. This character produces more or less of the *Asterina* facies, and leads to the supposition that *Patiria* may perhaps be traced phylogenetically to an *Asterina* ancestor. The armature of the adambulacral plates and the spinulation of the actinal intermediate plates, as well as the character of both, accord exactly with the adult form described above.

Locality.—Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope. Shallow water.

Remarks.—This species resembles in many respects *Patiria crassa*, Gray, of which it is probably the South-African representative. *Patiria bellula* may be distinguished by the comparatively shorter rays, which are broader at the base and more tapering, and by the character of the adambulacral armature, which in *Patiria bellula* consists of two series composed of three or four spines in each, whereas in *Patiria crassa* there are at least three series, composed of five to seven spinelets in each. Furthermore in *Patiria bellula* these spinelets, as well as the spinelets on the actinal intermediate plates, are much more robust and altogether stronger in character than in *Patiria crassa*. This is specially noticeable in the case of the actinal intermediate plates.

Genus *Nepanthia*, Gray.

Nepanthia (*pars*), Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1840, vol. vi., p. 287.
Asterina (subgenus *Nepanthia*), Perrier, Révis. Stell. Mus., 1876, p. 320 (Archives de Zool. expér., t. v. p. 240).

Gray included two species in his genus *Nepanthia*, one of which is a *Chætaster*. This was pointed out by Perrier, who thus limited the genus, and added at the same time two new species founded on specimens preserved in the British Museum. Perrier,[1] at

[1] Révis. Stell. Mus., pp. 295, 320 (*Archives de Zool. expér.*, t. v. pp. 215, 240).