

2. *Nepanthia maculata*, Gray (Pl. LXIV. figs. 1-4).

Nepanthia maculata, Gray, 1840, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. vi. p. 287.

Chætaster (?) *maculatus*, Müller and Troschel, 1842, System der Asteriden, p. 28.

1 *Chætaster cylindratus*, Möbius, 1859, Neue Seesterne des Hamburger und Kieler Museums, p. 1, Taf. 1, figs. 3 and 4 (Abhandl. a. d. Gebiete Naturw. hrsg. v. d. naturwiss. Verein, Hamburg, Bd. iv. Abth. 2, 1860).

Asterina (*Nepanthia*) *maculata*, Perrier, 1876, Révis. Stell. Mus., p. 322 (Archives de Zool. expér., t. v., p. 242).

Locality.—Station 188. In the Arafura Sea. September 10, 1874. Lat. 9° 59' 0" S., long. 139° 42' 0" E. Depth 28 fathoms. Green mud. Surface temperature 78°·5 Fahr.

Remarks.—Only a single example of this handsome species was procured by the Challenger. I have given drawings, as the form is little known, and the descriptions published are rather vague in some respects.

With regard to the adambulacral armature it may be mentioned that I believe the drawing given on Pl. LXIV. fig. 4, represents the natural posture of the spinelets during life. In a few favourable instances in the specimen under notice they may be seen thus disposed, but usually when preserved in spirit and in the dry condition the spinelets on the actinal surface of the adambulacral plates are drawn together and form a compact group, which closely resembles in form and character the groups of fine spinelets on the adjacent intermediate plates.

I have examined the type of Möbius' *Chætaster cylindratus* in the Hamburg Museum, and, though I have not compared it side by side with Gray's example, I feel little hesitation in regarding it as the same species.

Genus *Asterina*, Nardo.

Asterina, Nardo, De Asteriis, Oken's Isis, 1834, p. 716.

Asteriscus (*pars*), Müller and Troschel, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wisa., Berlin, 1840 (April), p. 104.

This well-characterised genus has been subjected to comparatively few changes at the hands of classifiers. Perrier¹ pointed out that there is no sufficient reason for discarding the name given by Nardo in favour of *Asteriscus* proposed by Müller and Troschel on the ground that the word in question was employed by Llhuyd and Linck. *Asteriscus* was not used in the sense of a generic name anterior to 1840.

Notwithstanding the considerable number of species, the amount of structural variation within the limits of the genus which they represent is comparatively small.

The distribution of the genus is almost cosmopolitan, but confined to the tropical and temperate seas.

¹ Révis. Stell. Mus., p. 294 (Archives de Zool. expér., 1876, t. v., p. 214).