

Subfamily PALMIPEDINÆ, Sladen, 1888.

Genus *Palmipes*, Linck.

Palmipes, Linck, De Stellis marinis, 1733, p. 29.

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

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

This remarkable and sharply defined genus appears to be comparatively local in its occurrence, although the recorded localities are widely distributed. The small number of species indicates a very limited range of morphological variation, which is all the more remarkable when the isolated character of the structure of the genus is taken into consideration.

The structural peculiarities of *Palmipes* have led me to place the genus in a distinct subfamily, in which I have included the allied genus *Stegnaster*. With these I am inclined to think that *Tremaster*, Verrill, should also be associated; but as I have not had an opportunity of examining the structure of that form, and as no account of its details has been published, nor any suggestion as to the affinities of this abnormal genus thrown out by its author, I feel at present some uncertainty as to whether *Tremaster* should be classed with the Palmipedinæ or Asterininæ.

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

ATLANTIC: One species between the parallels of 30° and 65° N.

Palmipes membranaceus, off the British Islands, in the English Channel, off the coast of France, and in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic.

INDIAN OCEAN: One species between the parallels of 10° and 25° N.

Palmipes rosaceus, from the Bay of Bengal (Berlin Mus.). This form also occurs off Japan (*vide* Gray).

PACIFIC: Two species between the parallels of 40° N. and 5° S.

Palmipes diaphanus, from North of Admiralty Island; and *Palmipes rosaceus*, from Japan, the latter extending to the Bay of Bengal.

β. *Bathymetrical range*: 20 to 150 fathoms.

Greatest range of one species: *Palmipes membranaceus*, 20 to 100 fathoms.

γ. *Nature of the Sea-bottom*: *Palmipes diaphanus* lives on Coral mud.

The nature of the ground inhabited by *Palmipes membranaceus* and *Palmipes rosaceus* is not recorded. The want of information in the case of the comparatively common form, *Palmipes membranaceus*, is surprising.