

margin of the disk, and its margin prevents the meeting of the lateral series of abactinal plates next the median radial series of the two adjacent rays. The striations are fine and sharply convoluted, the general trend being more or less regularly centrifugal. The primary apical plates on the disk are distinctly discernible.

The anal aperture is excentric in position, and is closed by a few small, valve-like, scutiform plates.

Colour in alcohol, a light brownish grey on the abactinal surface, mottled with darker patches of brown here and there, and with a number of the papular areas marked with a much darker shade of brown, the papular areas generally being darker than the plates and dissepiments, which gives a very ornate character to the species. The actinal surface is a bleached white.

Locality.—Station 186. In Torres Strait, off Cape York. September 8, 1874. Lat. $10^{\circ} 30' 0''$ S., long. $142^{\circ} 18' 0''$ E. Depth 8 fathoms. Coral mud. Surface temperature $77^{\circ} \cdot 2$ Fahr.

Remarks.—The nearest ally of this species appears to be *Ophidiaster granifer*, Lütken, but it is well distinguished by the six rows only of papular areas, by the great size of these and the numerous papulæ, by the character of the granulation and the presence of the large conical tubercles, by the small dumpy pedicellariæ, and by the peculiar form of the outer spinelets on the actinal surface of the adambulacral plates. The triple series of spinelets in the armature of the adambulacral plates recall the same intermediate character between *Ophidiaster* and *Linckia* as already noted in *Ophidiaster granifer* by Perrier.¹

5. *Ophidiaster helicostichus*, n. sp. (Pl. LXIX. figs. 5-7).

Rays five. $R = 130$ mm.; $r = 12 \cdot 5$ mm. $R = 10 \cdot 4 r$. Breadth of a ray near the base, 13.5 mm.

Rays elongate and tapering gradually to the extremity. Disk small and slightly convex. Interbrachial arcs subacute.

The abactinal and marginal plates, which are arranged with great regularity, form seven longitudinal series. The plates of the median series are rather larger than the others, which are small in comparison to the size of the starfish, and all are united by broad, sharply defined dissepiments. The surface of the plates is very slightly convex, and is covered with a small, rounded, closely packed, and nearly uniform granulation, excepting round the margin of the papular areas where it is extremely small. None of the plates bear large granules or tubercles. Small entrenched pedicellariæ of the figure-of-eight form are occasionally present on the plates near the margin of the papular areas, but are not numerous.

The papular areas, which are large and rather deeply sunken, are subcircular or oval

¹ Révis. Stell. Mus., p. 128 (*Archives de Zool. expér.*, 1875, t. iv. p. 392).