

Genus *Nardoa*, Gray, emend.

Linckia (pars), Müller and Troschel, Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin, 1840, April, p. 103.

Nardoa, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1840, Dec., vol. vi. p. 286.

Gomophia, Gray, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., 1840, Dec., vol. vi. p. 286.

Scytaster (pars), Müller and Troschel, System der Asteriden, 1842, p. 34.

Ophidiaster (pars), Müller and Troschel, System der Asteriden, 1842, p. 28.

Scytaster (pars), Lütken, Videnskab. Medd. naturh. Foron. i Kjøbenhavn, 1864, p. 163.

The limits of the genus to which I have restored Gray's name of *Nardoa* are the same as those recognised by Perrier under the name of *Scytaster*. I fail to see the justice of the grounds on which Gray's name has been ignored by preceding writers. The following statements give the history of the case. In 1834 Nardo¹ established the genus *Linckia*, including in it three species, *Linckia typus*, *Linckia franciscus*, *Linckia variolosa* (err. typ. for *variolata*). In 1835 Agassiz² maintained the genus exactly as named and constituted by Nardo. In April 1840 Müller and Troschel³ correctly discerned that the last of the three species above mentioned (*Linckia variolata*) represented a different generic type from the other two; but they erroneously referred *Linckia typus* (and subsequently in 1842 *Linckia franciscus*) to the genus *Ophidiaster* established by Agassiz in 1835, leaving only *Linckia variolata* in the genus *Linckia*, which they modified (by implication) for the reception of the form now known as *Fromia milleporella*. In December 1840 Gray⁴ published the concluding part of his Synopsis of the Genera and Species of Starfish, and in this work the genus *Linckia* of Nardo is maintained, and the two species *Linckia typus* and *Linckia franciscus* duly referred to it. For the third species mentioned by Nardo, "*Linckia*" *variolata*, Gray established a new genus under the name of *Nardoa*. This course was perfectly correct and justifiable, and there could be no doubt or possible ambiguity about the type, as the species had been known and figured for more than a century.

In 1842 Müller and Troschel, in their classical work, System der Asteriden, unfortunately ignored altogether these clearly established genera, discarded *Linckia* as restricted by themselves two years previously, and proposed a new name, *Scytaster*, for a genus, the type of which was the *Nardoa variolata* of Gray (the *Linckia variolata* of Nardo), and associated with it species which are now recognised as the representatives of two other genera. This step appears to me to have been altogether unwarrantable.

Lütken⁵ in 1864 and 1871 limited the scope of the genus *Scytaster*, and Perrier⁶ still further in 1875. *Scytaster* as now understood is quite different in its scope from the

¹ De Asteriis, *Oken's Isis*, 1834, Heft vii. p. 717.

² *Mém. Soc. Sci. Nat. Neuchatel*, t. i. p. 191.

³ *Monatsber. d. k. preuss. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, April 1840, p. 103.

⁴ *Ann. and Mag. Hist.*, vol. vi. p. 284.

⁵ *Videnskab. Medd. naturh. Foron. i Kjøbenhavn*, for 1864, p. 163; for 1871, p. 279.

⁶ *Révis. Stell. Mus.*, p. 156 (*Archives de Zool. expér.*, 1875, t. iv. p. 420)