

Chorological Synopsis of the Species herein mentioned.

	Ocean.	Range in Fathoms.	Nature of the Sea-bottom.
<i>Metrodira subulata</i> . . .	Eastern Archipelago.	8	Coral mud.

1. *Metrodira subulata*, Gray.

Metrodira subulata, Gray, 1840, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. vi. p. 282.

Scytaster subulatus, Müller and Troschel, 1842, System der Asteriden, p. 36.

Locality.—Station 186. In Torres Strait, off Cape York. September 8, 1874. Lat. 10° 30' 0" S., long. 142° 18' 0" E. Depth 8 fathoms. Coral mud. Surface temperature 77°·2 Fahr.

Family ZOROASTERIDÆ, Sladen, 1888.

The genus *Zoroaster* was originally classified by Sir Wyville Thomson¹ in the Asteriidæ. It was subsequently referred by Perrier² to the family Pedicellasteridæ, established by him in 1884. In the following year, 1885, it was, however, removed by Perrier³ into the new family Stichasteridæ. In my opinion *Zoroaster* and its allies are very far removed from *Pedicellaster*, and, although in some of their characters they approach much more nearly *Stichaster*, I consider that the details of their structure justify the establishment of an independent family.

I include in this family the genera *Zoroaster*, *Cnemidaster*, and *Pholidaster*.

Genus *Zoroaster*, Wyville Thomson.

Zoroaster, Wyville Thomson, The Depths of the Sea, 1873, p. 154.

Disk small. Rays long, narrow, tapering throughout, arched abactinally and with a more or less definite median keel, tumid actinally. Interbrachial arcs acute.

Abactinal, marginal, and actinal intermediate plates arranged in regular longitudinal lines along the ray. Regular transverse series are also formed, the plates being correspondent and equal in length in each series as they proceed along the ray, excepting the plates in the median series, which are larger. The surface of all the plates is covered with small widely-spaced granules, upon which are articulated small, papilliform, skin-covered spinelets. A small robust conical spine may be borne on the plates of the median series,

¹ The Depths of the Sea, 1873, p. 154.

² *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 2e Série, t. vi., p. 167 and p. 195.

³ *Ann. Sci. Nat. (Zool.)*, 1885, t. xix., art. No. 8, p. 15.