

Verrill). *Heliaster microbrachia*, from California and Mexico, and extending to Panama and the Pearl Islands. *Heliaster multiradiata*, from California, Mexico, the Galapagos Islands, and Sandwich Islands. **Heliaster helianthus*, off the coasts of Ecuador, Peru, and Chili. *Heliaster canopus*, from the Island of Juan Fernandez.

β. *Bathymetrical range*: Shallow water.

γ. *Nature of the Sea-bottom*: Most of the species have been collected on rocks at low water.

The species collected by the Challenger is indicated in the above list by an asterisk.

Chorological Synopsis of the Species herein mentioned.

	Ocean.	Range in Fathoms.	Nature of the Sea-bottom.
<i>Heliaster helianthus</i> . . .	Pacific.	Shallow water.	Rocks.

1. *Heliaster helianthus* (Lamarck), Dujardin and Hupé.

Asterias helianthus, Lamarck, 1816, Hist. nat. anim. s. vert., t. ii. p. 558.

Stellonia helianthus, Agassiz, 1835, Mém. Soc. Sci. Nat. Neuchatel, t. i. p. 192.

Asterias (Heliaster) helianthus, Gray, 1840, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., vol. vi. p. 179.

Asteracanthion helianthus, Müller and Troschel, 1842, System der Asteriden, p. 18.

Heliaster helianthus, Dujardin and Hupé, 1862, Hist. Nat. Zooph. Échin. (Suites à Buffon), p. 344.

Locality.—Valparaiso. Shallow water.

Remarks.—The examples collected at this locality show a great variation in the number and length of the rays, and in the character of the abactinal spinulation. I see no reason, however, for considering that they belong to more than the one species; but the circumstance brings into prominence the question of the validity of the characters by which the species in this genus have been mainly distinguished.

Family PEDICELLASTERIDÆ, Perrier, 1884.

The family Pedicellasteridæ was established by Perrier¹ in 1884 for the reception of the genera *Pedicellaster* and *Zoroaster*. In the following year (1885), however, *Zoroaster* was removed by Perrier² into the family Stichasteridæ, and *Pedicellaster* was ranked in the family Brisingidæ. The family Pedicellasteridæ was thus by act dispersed, although no mention of the circumstance is made or explanation given. I am unable to agree

¹ *Nouv. Archives Mus. Hist. Nat.*, 2e Série, 1884, t. vi., pp. 154, 167, 194.

² *Ann. Sci. Nat. (Zool.)*, 1885, t. xix., Art. No. 8, p. 15.