

21. *Asterias (Stolasterias) stichantha*, n. sp. (Pl. CVI. figs. 1-4).

Rays five. $R = 158$ mm.; $r = 17$ mm. $R > 9 r$. Breadth of a ray at the base, about 18 mm.

Rays elongate, broad and robust at the base, tapering gradually to a pointed extremity. Abactinal surface of the rays roundly convex and having a subcylindrical appearance when viewed from above. Disk small, slightly convex, but not higher than the rays. Interbranchial arcs acute.

The skeletal plates of the rays are disposed with great regularity, and those of the abactinal surface bear single uniform spinelets. Nine regular longitudinal series of equally spaced, isolated spinelets may be counted on the abactinal surface of the rays, the spinelets of the outermost series on each side being a shade larger than the others, and represent in my opinion a supero-marginal series. The median radial series is not different from the others. The spinelets, which are cylindrical, tapering, and pointed, measure from 2.5 to 3.5 mm. in length, and are surrounded at the base by one or two circlets of rather large, flattened, peculiarly blunt, skin-covered forcipiform pedicellariæ, which have to a certain extent the appearance of being appressed to a slightly convex elevation surrounding the base of the spine. Between adjacent wreaths is a space of naked membrane, and large isolated forcipiform pedicellariæ with strong and coarsely denticulate interlocking extremities are present here and there. The papulæ are in small, compact, isolated groups, with seldom more than five or six in each, except upon the disk, where the number is rather greater. The infero-marginal plates bear two spinelets, which stand as an obliquely placed pair; these spinelets are a little longer than the supero-marginal series, very robust at the base and thickly skin-covered, and each bears on its outer side a small tuft of pedicellariæ similar to those above described. The small but distinct space of naked membrane between the supero-marginal and infero-marginal spines is occupied only by small isolated groups of papulæ and an occasional large forcipiform pedicellaria. Between the infero-marginal plates and the adambulacral plates is a single series of large isolated papulæ, one standing between each pair of infero-marginal spines and near the base of the innermost spine of the pair.

The adambulacral plates are very small, and their armature consists of two rather long, equal, cylindrical, and slightly tapering spinelets which radiate slightly apart. At the base of the ray they measure from 3.5 to 4 mm. in length. Along the margin of the furrow, at the base of the innermost spines, are a number of large, elongate, pointed-jawed, forcipiform pedicellariæ with long peduncles. There may be one to each alternate plate, but sometimes they occur more frequently.

The ambulacral furrows are very wide, and the tube-feet, which have small, fleshy, centrally invaginated terminal disks, are quadriserial in their arrangement throughout.

The madreporiform body, which is rather large and circular in outline, is situated about midway between the centre of the disk and the margin; its surface is marked