

I have added a new genus, *Colpaster*, for the reception of a form characterised by the presence of an externally conspicuous azygos interradial plate separating the first pair of adambulacral plates, and further differing from *Freyella* in the development of the armature of the mouth-plates and the adambulacral plates.

Since the discovery of *Brisinga endecacnemos* in 1853, perhaps no other Asterid has been looked upon with so much interest by naturalists, or has given rise to a greater amount of speculation as to its antiquity and structural relations. The Brisingsidæ have been stated to represent the most primitive type of living starfishes, and to present a closer approach to the Ophiuroidea than any other form. I consider that these views are entirely unwarranted. It is now generally admitted by all workers at the group that the Brisingsidæ are most nearly related to the Asteriidæ, Heliasteridæ, and Echinasteridæ. Taking *Asterias* as a comparatively well-known and central form, it may be asked, Does the plan of structure of this genus represent the most archaic or the most primitive type of Asterid structure with which we are acquainted? and, Does it present the nearest approach to the plan of Ophiuroid structure? The reply to these questions would, I think, be unhesitatingly in the negative. Supposing for the sake of argument that the Brisingsidæ are older than the Asteriidæ, May *Asterias* be considered to represent even a penultimate stage? I think not, and in my opinion such an assumption would be entirely without foundation. Palæontological evidence certainly does not support it, and the embryological history of *Asterias* points unequivocally to a phanerozonte ancestry. In my opinion the Brisingsidæ are true cryptozonte Asterids, very nearly related to the Asteriidæ, Pedicellasteridæ, Heliasteridæ, and Echinasteridæ, and probably derived from a common ancestor, the divergence of form and the peculiarities of structure now exhibited by *Brisinga* being the result of modification produced by the extreme isolation and the exigencies of the abyssal depths in which the family has existed. We know too little of the embryology of *Brisinga* and its allies to speculate further at present on its antiquity or relations, and to say more than is suggested above in our present state of knowledge would be, in my opinion, to ignore altogether the evidence of palæontology and of the embryological development of those forms with which we are acquainted.

*Synopsis of the Genera included in the Family BRISINGIDÆ.*

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| <p>A. Disk large. Rays very numerous. Abactinal plating reticulate. Forciform and forcipiform pedicellariæ present . . . . .</p>   | <p><i>Labidiaster.</i></p> |
| <p>B. Disk small. Rays not very numerous (six to seventeen in number). Abactinal plating when present not reticulate. No forciform pedicellariæ, forcipiform pedicellariæ very numerous.</p> |                            |
| <p>a. Abactinal plating consisting of narrow widely-spaced transverse bands or ridges limited to the basal portion of the ray.</p>   |                            |
| <p>a. Intermediate abactinal membrane punctured by papulæ . . . . .</p>  | <p><i>Odinia.</i></p>      |