

of the mature ray of *Freyella heroïna*, are taken into consideration, together with the differences in the adambulacral armature and the spinulation of the abactinal plates, I consider it safer on the strength of the material at my disposal to rank the form under notice as a distinct species.

Genus *Colpaster*, n. gen.

Rays elongate and subcylindrical as viewed from above, having the general character of the rays of *Brisingidæ*. Disk small and sharply defined, the rays being readily detachable.

Abactinal area of the disk and of the basal portion of the rays covered with small, scale-like, imbricating, calcareous plates, which form a compact casement. The plates bear minute isolated spinelets, those upon the disk being slightly larger than on the base of the rays, and with their extremity denticulate. No papulæ are present.

Adambulacral plates only slightly longer than broad, widely spaced, the interspaces being filled with ligament. Adambulacral armature consisting of two small equal inner spinelets, one at each extremity of the furrow-margin, and two unequal spines on the actinal surface of the plate, one large and robust. These are invested with membranous sheaths covered with crowded pedicellarizæ. Robust lateral spines are articulated on small rudimentary infero-marginal plates intimately united to the adambulacral plates.

An azygos interradial plate, shield-shaped and conspicuous superficially, separates the first pair of free adambulacral plates, resembling the mouth-shield of an Ophiuran.

Mouth-plates small, with an armature consisting of three mouth-spines proper, and three large secondary or superficial mouth-spines on the actinal surface of each plate.

Madreporiform body small, subtubercular, prominent, situated near the margin of the disk; striations few in number and simple. Anal aperture distinct, situated excentrally.

*Remarks.*—*Colpaster* resembles *Freyella* in general habit and in the plating of the disk and ovarial regions of the rays. It is distinguished, however, from that and from all other forms by the presence of the azygos interradial plate external to the mouth-plates, and by the character of the armature of the adambulacral plates and mouth-plates.

*Chorology of the Genus Colpaster.*

a. *Geographical distribution*:—

ATLANTIC: One species between the parallels of 20° and 30° N.

*Colpaster scutigerula*, from south-west of the Canary Islands.

β. *Bathymetrical range*: 1525 fathoms.

γ. *Nature of the Sea-bottom*: Hard ground.