

Samboangan; 10 fathoms. Two specimens.

Other Localities.—Indian seas (Retzius); Australian seas (Peron and Lesueur); Singapore; Java; the Moluccas; North Celebes; Banka; Billiton; Bohol; North-west Australia; the Arafura Sea; Dundas Strait; Warrior Reef; Thursday Island; Prince of Wales Channel; Fitzroy Island; Port Molle; Port Curtis.

Remarks.—Müller associated this species with the name of Retzius,¹ referring only to the latter author's famous dissertation which was published in 1805. The name, however, had been used by Linnæus in the tenth edition of the *Systema Naturæ* (1758), the first in which species were characterised;² and it was also employed by Retzius³ in 1783. Linnæus referred to *Asterias pectinata* the two ten-armed Comatulæ figured by Linck,⁴ which are the British and the Mediterranean varieties of *Antedon rosacea*, and also the *Stella chinensis* of Petiver. But except for his mention of the type as belonging to the Indian seas, there is no evidence of his having associated the specific name *pectinata* with any particular form from this locality. This, however, was done by Retzius in 1783 and again in 1805, when he separated *Asterias tenella* from *Asterias pectinata*, and his type specimens of both species are still in existence. He added a description in Swedish to the Linnæan diagnosis of *Asterias pectinata*, and his reference to the number and characters of the cirri indicates that he was not speaking of a European *Comatula*, but of the specimen from the Indian seas in the Retzian collection; while he eventually only included under this name one of Linck's two species, *Decacnemos barbata*, from the Mediterranean, remaining in doubt as to the position of the British *Decacnemos rosacea*.⁵

Lamarck made no allusion whatever to Retzius' two descriptions of *Asterias pectinata*, although the first one was quoted in Gmelin's edition of the *Systema Naturæ* on the same page (3166) as that to which Lamarck referred in the case of *Asterias tenella*. De Blainville also left it without notice as an eastern species, though he quoted Adams' use of the name for the British *Comatula*; and it remained in obscurity till Müller's visit to Lund in 1841. After examining Retzius' type specimen, he gave a careful and perfectly recognisable description of it, one of the best, in fact, which he ever wrote.⁶ He eventually came to the conclusion, however, that it seemed to be a colour variation of *Comatula solaris*, Lamarck,⁷ and he put *Asterias pectinata* into the synonymy of this type, but with a (?). I believe myself that the two species really are distinct; but should it ever become necessary to unite them under one name, that name must be *pectinata* and not *solaris*. Lamarck's description of *Comatula solaris* is as insufficient as that of

¹ *Archiv f. Naturgesch.*, 1843, Jahrg. ix. Bd. i. p. 133.

² *K. Svensk. Vetensk. Akad. Handl.*, År. 1783, t. iv. p. 241.

³ *Op. cit.*, p. 34.

⁴ *Abhandl. d. k. Akad. d. Wiss. Berlin*, 1847 [1849], p. 249.

⁵ *Op. cit.*, t. ii. p. 663.

⁶ *Op. cit.*, Tab. xxxvii. figs. 64, 66.

⁷ *Archiv f. Naturgesch.*, 1843, Jahrg. ix. Bd. i. p. 133.