

character referred to has subsequently been called in question. Sars¹ states definitely that it did not occur in any of his specimens, and he considered that Düben and Koren had been deceived by the presence of foreign matter. Düben and Koren remark that the character is not a constant one.

A large series of specimens shows a considerable amount of variation in the relative breadth of the supero-marginal plates and the paxillar area upon the rays. In examples from Drøbach the supero-marginal plates as a rule arch over very slightly upon the actinal surface. On the other hand, in a specimen from Tromsø in the Christiania Museum they are very wide. This example is also noteworthy on account of the different character of the paxillæ, which are more rounded in form, and with the component spinelets radiating more apart; whereas in the usual type the spinelets are pressed together and directed upward, and the crown is more or less pentagonal in form. The spinelets on the aboral margin of the infero-marginal plates of the Tromsø specimen are very insignificant, and are almost aborted into robust squamules. The armature of the adambulacral and actinal intermediate plates, which is papilliform, uniform, and invested with membrane, has a very distinct appearance, as well as the almost naked and flatly appressed covering of the infero-marginal plates. In the Drøbach specimens the three or four spines on the infero-marginal plates are well developed.

I have also seen a specimen from Lofoten with broad supero-marginal plates and well-developed spines on the infero-marginal plates, which are rather wide apart and uniform.

A number of the specimens in the Stockholm collection have the supero-marginal plates arching well upon the abactinal surface, but in an example from Bohuslän the arching is very slight.

To a certain extent the supero-marginal plates appear to be relatively broader in young forms, and narrower and less arching in the larger examples.

The most interesting variety I have seen is one in Christiania determined by M. Sars, which bears a ticket inscribed by him, "Varietet med bredere Paxillarfeldt paa Armene og mindre brede dorsale Randplader. Paa 200 Favnes Dyb paa Line. Fensfjorden." In this example the supero-marginal plates are very narrow and almost perpendicular. The spines on the infero-marginal plates (a series of three to five) are long and thin, the third from the margin being longest. The central part of the plate is naked. Similarly the supero-marginal plates have only a few granules on the upper part and near the margins of the plate.

Sars¹ has remarked that the northern examples of this species seem to have generally shorter arms than the southern ones.

2. *Psilaster acuminatus*, n. sp. (Pl. XL. figs. 1 and 2; Pl. XLII. figs. 7 and 8).

Rays five. $R = 65$ mm.; $r = 15$ mm. $R = 4.3 r$. Breadth of a ray at the base, 14.5 mm.

¹ Oversight af Norges Echinodermer, Christiania, 1861, p. 31.