

Colour in alcohol, a bleached ashy grey or white, with occasional darker tints suggestive of a violet colour during life.

Locality.—Station 150. Between Kerguelen and Heard Islands. February 2, 1874. Lat. $52^{\circ} 4' 0''$ S., long. $71^{\circ} 22' 0''$ E. Depth 150 fathoms. Coarse gravel. Bottom temperature $35^{\circ} \cdot 2$ Fahr.; surface temperature $37^{\circ} \cdot 5$ Fahr.

Remarks.—This species is nearly allied to *Asterias (Smilasterias) scalprifera*, but is distinguished by the smaller habit, by the more compactly papillose character of the abactinal spinulation, and by the constant presence of only three spines in the oblique combs on the infero-marginal plates, and only two spines in the armature of the adambulacral plates, irrespective of the size of the example. I was at first inclined to think that this form might perhaps be the young stage of *Asterias (Smilasterias) scalprifera*, but the constancy of the characters above noted throughout the large series of examples collected appear to me, after a careful study, to warrant the recognition of *Asterias (Smilasterias) triremis* as a distinct species.

D. *Asterias ophidion* group: Subgenus HYDRASTERIAS, nov.

14. *Asterias (Hydrasterias) ophidion*, n. sp. (Pl. XCIX. figs. 3 and 4; Pl. CIII. figs. 3 and 4).

Rays six. $R = 51$ mm.; $r = 7$ mm. $R > 7r$. Breadth of a ray at the base, 6.5 mm.; greatest breadth a little beyond the base, 7.5 mm.; breadth about midway between the base and the extremity, 5 mm.

Rays elongate, narrow, cylindrical, slightly inflated near the base, tapering gradually to the extremity, which is pointed and attenuate. Disk small, not higher than the base of the rays. Interbranchial arcs acutely angular, the rays appearing to be crushed together at the base.

The abactinal skeleton is composed of very narrow plates, which form a delicate wide-meshed network. The meshes are large, more or less quadrate in general form, and their major diameter is transverse in relation to the direction of the ray. A thin, band-like median radial line of plates may be indistinctly traced. The abactinal plates bear at wide intervals apart, short, isolated, delicate, tapering, skin-covered, microscopic spinelets. The spinelets upon the disk are much more robust than those on the rays and more closely placed. On the membrane which covers the meshes are borne numerous, but widely spaced, isolated, uniform, forcipiform pedicellariæ, the whole giving a wide-spaced granular appearance to the surface when viewed with the naked eye. Papulæ appear to be very few in number, small and difficult to distinguish, and probably not more than one is present in a mesh.

The armature of the adambulacral plates consists of two short, comparatively robust, skin-covered spinelets on each plate, forming a transverse pair, very close together and