

ON THE OCCURRENCE OF THE GENUS *PALÆASTER*
IN THE UPPER SILURIAN ROCKS OF VICTORIA.

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(Plate xxx.)

THE Upper Silurian rocks of Victoria have so far yielded two species of Asteroidea, and one well defined species of Ophiuroidea, whilst a second doubtful species of the latter class is believed to exist. The former are *Petraster Smythii*, McCoy,* from the Moonee Ponds beds, and *Urasterella Selwynii*, McCoy,† from near Kilmore. The single described species of the second class is *Protaster brisingoides*, Gregory,‡ from Moonee Ponds, the doubtful one being a MS. name *Tæniaster australis*, McCoy. It has been suggested that this is merely a synonym of Gregory's *P. brisingoides*.

In the genus *Palæaster*, Hall, the structure of the arms on the actinial side consists of two rows of ambulacral plates, and two rows of adambulacral plates, bordered on each side by a row of marginal plates. In *Urasterella*, McCoy, adambulacral plates are present as in *Palæaster*, but marginal plates do not exist. In *Petraster*, Billings, on the other hand both adambulacral and marginal plates are developed, but separated by a row of disc plates; while in *Palasterina*, the disc itself is much extended, and the adambulacral plates in the interradial angles are large and triangular.

I now purpose describing a star-fish in the Museum Collection, from Moonee Ponds, which certainly appears to have the structure of *Palæaster*, Hall, rather than that of either of the genera named.

PALÆASTER MERIDIONALIS, *sp. nov.*

(Pl. xxx., fig. 16 & 17.)

Sp. Char.—Body small; rays moderately long and rather acutely pointed, fifteen millimeters from the actinial centre to the apices; interbrachial angles broad and obtuse; abactinial surface unknown. Ambulacral avenues wide in comparison to the size of the body, deep, very gradually tapering, the sides more or less straight walled; ambulacral plates about twenty in number on each side, transversely oblong, bearing more or less pyriform pores; adambulacral plates quadrangular, smaller than the marginal plates, placed along the prominent edges of the ambulacral avenues;

* Prod. Pal. Vict., Dec. I., 1874, p. 41, t. 10, f. 1.

† *Ibid.*, p. 42, t. 10, f. 2 and 3.

‡ Geol. Mag., 1889, vi. (3), p. 24.