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A New Genus and Species of Asteroid from New Zealand

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Abstract

Pseudechinaster rubens gen. nov., sp. nov. is recorded on the basis of nine specimens from Cook Strait, New Zealand, and it appears most closely related to the South African genus *Perissasterias* H. L. Clark.

Order FORCIPULATIDA

Family ASTERIIDAE

Genus PSEUDECHINASTER gen. nov.

Abactinal skeleton a close knit irregular reticulum, the plates bearing short rigid spines, straight and crossed pedicellariae scattered, not forming wreaths round the spines; 2 to 4 adambulacral spines; an adoral carina present.

TYPE SPECIES. *Pseudechinaster rubens* sp. nov.

Pseudechinaster rubens sp. nov.

DESCRIPTION

The general facies is that of *Echinaster*, with a small disc and five long, flexible arms each tapering to a blunt tip. An interradial septum is present devoid of spines.

The aboral skeleton is formed by an irregular network of small trilobate and cruciform plates joined in most cases by oblong connecting ossicles and obscured by a skin; there is an irregular carinal series, and these plates are short with 4 lobes. Both the superomarginal and inferomarginal series of plates are developed, the former being slightly larger. Each arm tip is protected by a crescent-shaped terminal plate. In the proximal region of the arms the actinal series of plates are in three distinct rows; distally, however, these merge together towards the groove, and near the arm tip only the outer rows are distinct; papular areas between these plates are small.

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