

The anus is central and the region is devoid of papulae and crowded with small granules and pedicellariae.

There are 4 longitudinal rows of actinal plates, each bearing at least 1 and sometimes 2 or 3 spines, which measure between 2 and 3 mm in length. The spines may be somewhat flattened and truncated distally and are often thorny. Both straight and crossed pedicellariae and small papulae are present.

There is a short adoral carina composed of 2 postoral adambulacral plates which are in contact by their interradial margins. The adambulacral plates immediately distal to the oral plate are large, with 2 subambulacral spines disposed irregularly (Fig. b). The adambulacral plates, which extend well into the furrow, bear a transverse row of 2 to 4 spines. In the proximal region generally only 2 spines are present, and they measure 4 mm in length and 1 mm broad; they may be somewhat flattened, expanded and divided towards the tip; distally the spines are smaller, generally 3 in number, and they seldom exceed 3 mm. The innermost spine generally projects over the furrow. On the furrow margin of each adambulacral plate both small and large straight pedicellariae occur; crossed pedicellariae are absent.

The adambulacral furrows are wide proximally and become narrow in the distal regions. The slender tube feet, each with a distinct sucking disc, are quadriserial.

Each oral plate bears 6 spines. Of these 4 are similar to, though longer than, the adambulacral spines, 2 at the proximal margin and 2 suboral. On the proximal margin of the oral plate, within the mouth, there are also 2 smaller spines. The actinostomial ring is sunken. The gonads appear to open ventrolaterally.

HOLOTYPE. Zoology Museum, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. $R = 130$ mm, $r = 18$ mm, $R/r = 7.22$. Breadth of arm at base 30 mm.

PARATYPES $R/r = 5.36$ to 7.50 mm; mean for 8 specimens 6.5 mm; breadth of arm at base 24 to 32 mm; mean for 8 specimens 26 mm.

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Nine specimens collected by Mr F. Abernethy, from the vicinity of Cape Campbell, Cook Strait, March, 1957. Depth, 55 to 63 fathoms (102 to 116 metres).

COLOUR. "Bright salmon red all over." Straw coloured when dried, ex. formalin.

VARIATIONS. Among the nine specimens examined there are no meristic variants: in one specimen, however, the arms vary in length. The carinal series is variously developed, being most apparent in the larger specimens.

DISCUSSION

This species has been confused for many years with *Echinaster farquhari* which Benham described in 1909. In his description Benham stated (p. 98), "I see no pedicellariae anywhere," and as distinct straight and crossed pedicellariae occur in *Pseudechinaster rubens* it is obvious that it must be referred to the Forcipulatida. Although Benham's type material cannot now be traced, we must assume that his statement regarding the pedicellariae is correct. Therefore the present specimens represent a new species. Of the two Forcipulate genera which have the facies of *Echinaster*, none can accommodate the species, which requires, therefore, a new genus.