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PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Cotteswold Naturalists'**  
FIELD CLUB

For 1881—1882

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- The PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS at the Annual Meeting, at Gloucester, 1882.



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#### CORRIGENDUM.

Vol. VII, Pl. IV, fig 4, pp. 274 and 279—For *Nerinæa Simplex*, read "*N. Calcareæ*." It appears that the name *N. Simplex* was given to another species by DESLONGCHAMPS, in 1849.

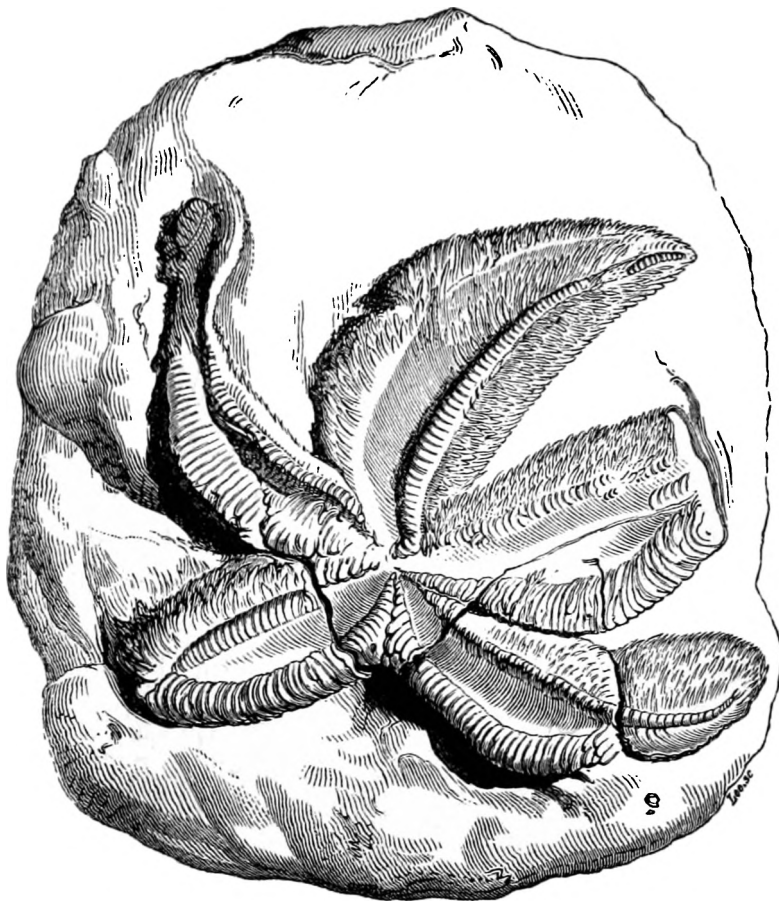
*On a New Species of Star Fish, from the Forest Marble, Wilts.*  
By DR. THOS. WRIGHT, F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

*Genus.*—URASTER—*Agassiz*, 1835.

Body, stellate; rays, five, moderately long, cylindrical or lanceolate, deeply cleft on the under side, fringed below with rows of small, and laterally with larger spines. Skeleton composed of small irregularly-shaped and femur-like ossicula, articulated together in a reteform manner. Upper surface of the body studded with blunt or pointed spines, scattered or grouped together in tufts, and arranged more or less regularly in longitudinal rows. Ambulacral avenues wide, composed internally of two rows of long femur-like bones, spaced out for the four series of tentacula. Anal opening small, sub-central, madreporiform body simple. This genus first appeared in the Lias, and ranged onward through the Jurassic, Cretaceous, and Tertiary periods into our existing seas.

URASTER SPINIGERA.—*Wright*, nov. sp.

*Diagnosis.*—Rays, five, short, broad, curved and pelatoidal; ambulacral areas wide; margins bordered by a series of small ossicles, which form beaded ridges on each side of the ambulacral spaces. The ossicles support numerous small, short, blunt spines which lie in profusion on the sides of the rays; similar spines appear to have clothed the dorsal surface and are seen "*in situ*" in the twisted portion of one of the rays, as delineated in the subjoined figure, drawn by the late Mr. C. R. BONE, and enlarged two diameters.



× 2

URASTER SPINIGERA, *Wright.*

*Dimensions.*—Diameter of the disk, one half-inch; length of each ray, one inch; breadth of a ray at its widest part, four-tenths of an inch.

*Description.*—This beautiful little Star-fish was collected from the Forest Marble, near Road, Wilts, by Dr. H. F. PARSONS, who forwarded it to me for description and figuring. The specimen came into my hands in a very bad state, but by carefully backing up the rock with plaster of Paris, I have given it sufficient support to enable me to develop a considerable portion of its anatomy.

The disk was small in proportion to the width of the rays and the diameter of the Star-fish. The rows of small ossicles which bound the margins of the wide ambulacral areas form an

important character in this species. These bones are longest near the oral aperture, and gradually diminish towards the end of the rays. They form a beaded structure of considerable strength, which supported a great number of small, short, stout spines; these appear to have passed round the sides of the rays and covered the dorsal surface. A few of the spines are seen in the twisted part, which exposes a portion of the upper surface. This spinous condition of the tegumentary membrane has suggested the specific name which I have given to this new Jurassic Star-fish.

The small ossicles which occupied the central portion of the ambulacral areas are absent, and there remains only the vacant spaces they at one time filled in (see figure.)

*Affinities and Differences.*—This organism differs so much from the other fossil species of the Genus *Uraster* that it may probably prove to be the type of a new genus when more details are learned anent the anatomy of the skeleton, by the discovery of additional materials to work upon. In the meantime I have grouped it with the *Urasters*, to which it is so closely related by general characters, whilst it differs in some others, as for example, in the presence of the beaded ridge formed by the ossicles which bound and limit the ambulacral areas.

*Locality and Stratigraphical Position.*—This specimen was obtained from one of the shaly beds of Forest Marble, near Road, Wilts. It appears to be rare, as I can find no record of any other Star-fish having ever been found in the fossiliferous beds of that locality.

The above drawing was very carefully made on wood, by the late eminent artist Mr. C. R. BONE, and engraved by Mr. LEE. It represents the fossil enlarged two diameters, in order to exhibit the minute details of the anatomy of this species.