

ASTERIAS ECHINITES.

CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Corpus depressum; crusta coriacea, tentaculis muricata.

Os centrale, quinquevalve.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 1098.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

ASTERIAS subviginti-radiata, fulva, radiis corporeque spinosis.

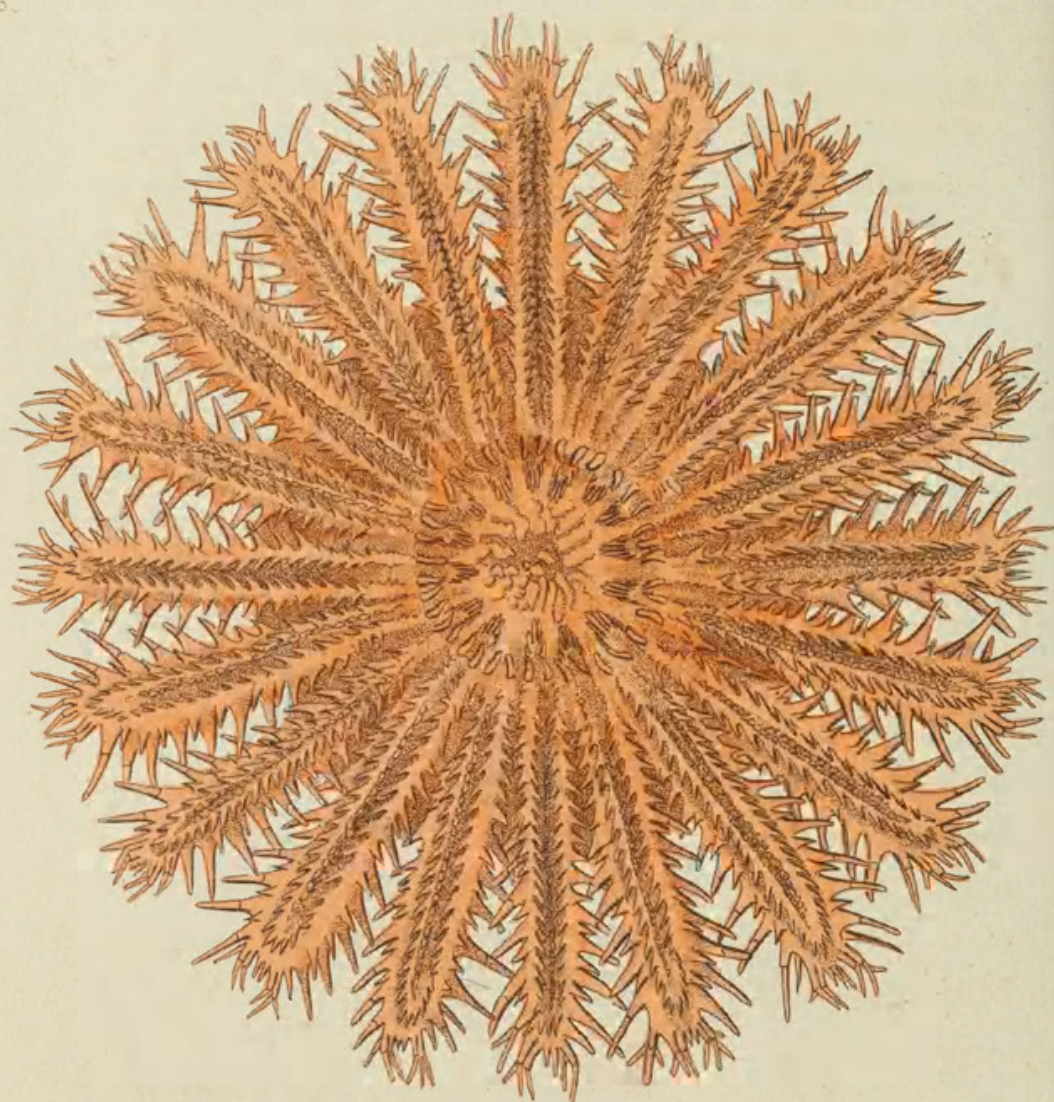
ASTERIAS ECHINITES.

Ell. Zooph. t. 60, 51.

Rarissimæ hujus Asteriæ in maribus Indicis generatæ exsuperat interdum diametros latitudinem pedalem. Vinculo quodam communi connectere videtur genera Asteriæ et Echini, cum alterius formam sortita sit depressam, alterius munita tegumento forti et crustato. Jactat Museum Leverianum pulcherrima rari hujus animalis specimina.

Dolenter sane ferent ii omnes quos tangit ulla delectatio mirabilium Naturæ, brevi tempore in varias partes discerptum, hastæ subjectum iri Museum Leverianum : armarium tanta cum cura digestum ; gradatim auctum, et jam fere perfectum, ut ei saltem integritas si non immortalitas exoptanda esset. Ut lauta hæc et magnifica supellex publico (proh pudor!) orbata patrocinio, meo qualicunque non destituatur præconio, ausus sum chartis mandare laudes festinanter et temere effusas ; quas cum evidentur sint quæ vocantur *centonica*, minus aptas censeo in linguam Anglicam transferri.

696.



ACH. Der. Pol. & Sulph.

THE
ECHINOID ASTERIAS.

GENERIC CHARACTER.

Body depressed; covered with a coriaceous crust, muricated with tentacula.

Mouth central, five-valved.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

Fulvous Star-Fish, with about twenty rays, and both rays and body spinose.

ASTERIAS ECHINITES.

Ell. Zooph. t. 60, 61.

The very rare species of *Asterias* here represented, is a native of the Indian seas, and arrives at a very considerable size, measuring more than twelve inches in diameter. It seems to form a kind of connecting link between the genera of *Asterias* and *Echinus*, having the depressed form of the one, and the strong, calcareous covering of the other. Most elegant specimens of this curious animal are preserved in the Leverian Museum.

The impending dispersion of the Leverian Museum, so disgracefully suffered to fall, through a want of public patronage, in a nation like that of Britain, calls for the unfeigned regret of all who are touched by the love of science, or are alive to the charms of Nature.

As a last tribute of acknowledgment to an institution so noble and so unfortunate, I shall make no apology for inserting (even uncorrected by minute attention), the following effusion in its praise, which the reader will immediately perceive to be in the form of a Cento, and which it is, of course, impossible to translate.



Shaw, George. 1806. "The Echinoid Asterias, Asterias echintites [Pl. 695-696]." *The Naturalist's Miscellany* 17(CC), <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.311133>.

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