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***Calliaster childreni* Gray (Echinodermata : Asteroidea) A new Record from the Indian Ocean**

D.B. James

Principal Scientist (Retd.), CMFRI

Sadasiva Metha Street, Metha Nagar, Chennai - 29

Calliaster childreni Gray is hitherto known only from the southern Japanese and southern Chinese seas. Gray (1840) described this species for the first time from southern Japan. Later Goto (1914) gave a detailed description of it from Japan. Clark and Rowe (1971) stated that the British Museum had six specimens (preserved in a dry form) collected more than one hundred years back from China but without any record of depth of collection. Liao and Clark (1995) just referred to the collections in the British Museum without any further information. The former authors are of the opinion that China as the locality was added to their labels by the fishermen 100 years back to enhance their value.

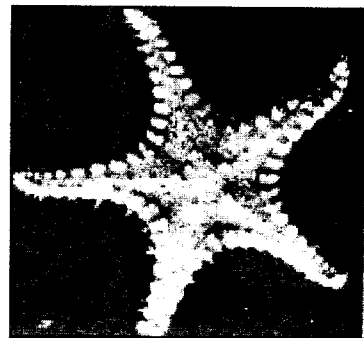
A single specimen of *Calliaster childreni* Gray (Photograph) was collected on board FORV Sagar Sampada off Stewart Island in the Northern Andamans from a depth of 37 metres in 1990. It belongs to the family Goniasteridae where the marginal plates are large and conspicuous. Its 'R' is 53 mm and 'r' 21 mm. R/r is 2.5. ('R' denotes distance from centre of the disc to the tip

of the arm, and 'r' denotes distance from centre of the disc to the edge of the disc). The dorsal side is slightly arched and the ventral side is flat. All the abactinal plates are covered by granules and some of them have a single spine. Some of the abactinal plates are enlarged along the radial region and covered by granules and a single spine on each plate. There are ten supero-marginal plates on each side of the arm on the dorsal side and an equal number of infero-marginal plates on the ventral side. The supero-marginals are hemispherical in shape and covered by slightly enlarged granules. Each supero-marginal plate has a spine mounted on an enlarged granule.

This species appears to live in deeper waters. It is reported off Stewart Island for the first time from the Indian Ocean.

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