

etc. It must, however, be clearly borne in mind that there were many forms common to both areas,—partly those which belong to the entire boreal region, and partly those which are exclusively or nearly always found on the plateaus.

As already stated, the bottom on the plateaus rarely, and as a rule only in deep hollows, consists of soft mud, being for the most part coarse or fine sand, sandy mud, stones, and rocks. The stony bottom usually predominates near the outer limits of the plateaus, or continental edge. Investigations by Rasch in 1844 and by Sars in 1871 made it clear that large round stones and pebbles are to be met with on the Great Edge to the west of Aalesund at a depth of about 200 metres, and the "Michael Sars" also found round stones and pebbles there, as well as on

Fauna of the  
continental  
edge.

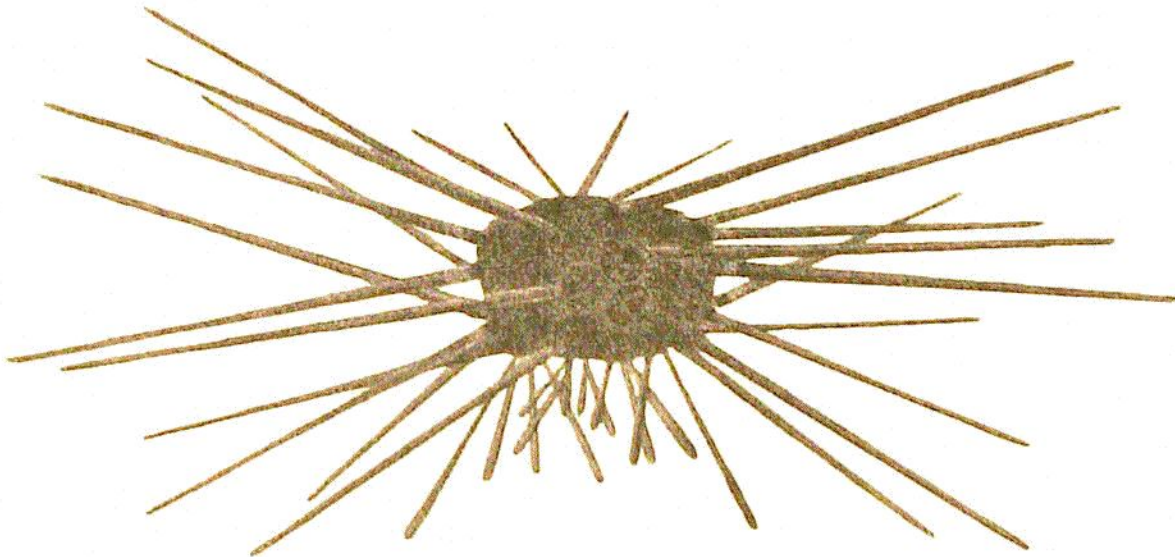


FIG. 354.

*Dorocidaris papillata*, Leske. Reduced. (After Dübén and Koren.)

the rather less sharply defined edge of the Faroe plateau; in the latter locality the dredge brought up from a depth of about 400 metres a mass of loose round stones.

The character of the fauna on the edges of the boreal plateaus, judging from what we have found on the Faroe and the Norwegian plateaus, is fairly uniform. Owing to the nature of the bottom we meet with attached forms, particularly sponges (for instance *Oceanapia robusta*), hydroids, corals, brachiopods, and bryozoans, together with a number of unattached forms, of which the echinoderms are the most characteristic. Among brachiopods we get *Crania anomala*, *Terebratulina caput-serpentis*, *Waldheimia cranium*, and *W. septata*, the last of which inhabits the plateaus of the open sea and never or only exceptionally enters the fjords. The same is the case with several echinoderms: *Dorocidaris papillata* (see Fig. 354),