THE STATUS OF NARDOA (ANDORA) A. M. CLARK, 1967
(ASTEROIDEA: OPHIDIASTERIDAE), WITH THE DESCRIPTION OF
TWO NEW SUBGENERA AND THREE NEW SPECIES

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SUMMARY

The diagnosis of Nardoa (Andora) A. M. Clark is expanded and this subgenus of Nardoa is elevated to generic rank. Two new subgenera of Andora and three new species are described, extending the distribution of the genus from the Arabian Sea to the Mozambique Channel, Heron Island (east coast of Australia) and the Philippine Islands.

INTRODUCTION

Macan (1938) described the species Nardoa faouzii from a single specimen collected in shallow-water from off the Arabian coast during the John Murray Expedition (1933-4). The species has not been re-encountered. A. M. Clark (1967) re-examined the holotype and concluded that the regular arrangement of the abactinal plates on the proximal one third of the arms was a character of sufficient weight to distinguish faouzii subgenerically from variolata (type-species of Nardoa; designated by H. L. Clark, 1921) and other species included in the genus Nardoa in the same paper. She accordingly defined Andora as a subgenus of Nardoa.

While preparing a revision of the genus Nardoa, I have had the opportunity of examining the holotype of Nardoa (Andora) faouzii Macan as well as undescribed specimens from Mozambique Channel (Western Indian Ocean), the Philippine Islands, and from Heron Island (Queensland coast, Australia). The combination of characters exhibited by these five specimens shows them not only to represent four distinct species (three of them new) but that the species are clearly related within the common supra-specific taxon Andora. I believe that the taxon Andora is sufficiently distinguishable from other related ophidiasterid genera to be elevated to generic level, and that within this taxon two subgeneric taxa should be recognised.