

Stage" is now regarded as upper middle to lower upper Miocene. Because *A. bajasurensis* is most comparable to lower "Margaritan Stage" forms, its age is probably late middle Miocene. This would be fully consistent with the authors' conclusions regarding the age of the Isidro Formation. Overall, *A. bajasurensis* appears to be a primitive representative of the genus. It resembles early species in its relatively small size, rounded ambitus, and posterior lobe. It commonly has continuous interambulacra, which is a primitive character. It does not have markedly raised petals, well-developed interambulacral valleys, or large tubercles. All of these are advanced characters.

Hall (1962) and Durham (1966) restricted *Astro-dapsis* to California, chiefly between latitudes 34° and 38°N. *Astro-dapsis bajasurensis* n. sp. is the first species of genus *Astro-dapsis* known outside of California, and the new species extends the southern geographic limit of the genus by 1,100 km to 26°14'N. Previously, the southern geographic limit of *Astro-dapsis* was 34°07'N in the basal Modelo Formation, eastern Santa Monica Mountains, just south of Tarzana, Los Angeles County, southern California (Hoots, 1931, p. 110; Eaton et al., 1941, Pl. 5, fig. 11a). In addition, all previously known *Astro-dapsis* localities are located within about 500 km of each other.

Early workers reported two species of *Astro-dapsis* from Baja California, but later taxonomic work showed that the species belong in another genus. *Astro-dapsis israelskyi* Jordan and Hertlein (1926) was reported from upper Pliocene strata on Cedros Island, Baja California (Jordan and Hertlein, 1926; Grant and Hertlein, 1938), from Pliocene strata in the Bahia Tortugas area, Vizcaino Peninsula, Baja California Sur (Hertlein, 1933; Grant and Hertlein, 1938; Minch et al., 1976), and from Pliocene strata in the San Diego area (Grant and Hertlein, 1938). Hertlein and Grant (1960), however, reassigned *A. israelskyi* to genus *Merriamaster*.

Astro-dapsis kewi Jordan and Hertlein (1926) was reported from upper Pliocene strata on Cedros Island, Baja California (Jordan and Hertlein, 1926; Grant and Hertlein, 1938), but Hertlein and Grant (1960) reassigned the species to genus *Merriamaster*.

The genus *Astro-dapsis* has been reported from Kamchatka and Sakhalin in eastern Russia (Khomeenko, 1931; Argamakova, 1934), but Durham (1955) stated that it appears highly improbable that any of the species reported from there are correctly identified. Hall (1962) tentatively assigned the eastern Russian specimens to genus *Pseudoastro-dapsis* Durham, 1953. Also, the genus *Astro-dapsis* has been reported from Japan (Nisiyama, 1948), but Durham (1952, 1966) assigned the specimens from there to the genus *Nipponaster* Durham, 1952 [= *Pseudoastro-dapsis* Durham, 1953].

Etymology.—The new species is named for Baja California Sur.

Material.—Two hundred specimens. Holotype, IGM 5926 = plastoholotype, LACMIP 11587; paratypes, IGM 5927–5933 = plastoparatypes, LACMIP 11588–11594; paratypes, LACMIP 11595–11599.

Occurrence.—Upper middle Miocene, Isidro Formation; type locality = CSUN locality 1495, near mouth of Arroyo Mezquitil, north central Baja California Sur, Mexico.

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