DESCRIPTION OF GENERA AND SPECIES.

Family I. GROMIDÆ.

The GROMIDÆ, as generally defined, are Reticularian Rhizopods, with an imperforate chitinous investment. The investment is either in the condition of a thin pellicle or skin adhering closely to the body of the animal, or, more commonly, forms a distinct test, which the animal may or may not completely fill. The investment or test is normally homogeneous, and is either hyaline, yellowish, or of light brown colour. In rare instances the exterior is encrusted with sand-grains or other foreign matter. The general aperture, when single, is central and axial, or nearly so; when there are two mouths they occupy the opposite poles of the test.

The classification of the naked and chitinous Rhizopoda into *Lobosa*, *Filosa*, and *Reticularia*, according to the characters of their extended pseudopodia, is convenient, and perhaps the best that can be devised with our present limited knowledge; but the relationship of some of the Filose types to the Reticularian is so close as to suggest that the distinction is only one of degree.

In the Synopsis of this family only the distinctly Reticularian genera have been retained; that is to say, those in which the pseudopodia take the form of long, delicate, much-branched sarcode filaments, with ragged and irregular edges, inosculating in places, and very mobile—the transparent matter being loaded with granules which are carried along in more or less evident currents.

The number of genera of chitinous Rhizopods that can be included amongst the GROMIDÆ with this restriction is at present only five. Of these, *Lieberkuehnia* has a flexible investment adhering closely to the body of the animal, and constantly changing form. *Gromia* and *Mikrogromia* have ovate chitinous tests, differing from each other in little except size—true tests, of which the cavity is not always filled with sarcode. In the genus *Diaphoropodon* the chitinous investment is strengthened by the incorporation of foreign bodies; and, in addition to the long reticulated pseudopodia issuing from the general aperture, there are numberless delicate, filose extensions, short, hyaline, and of nearly equal length, springing from amongst the extraneous bodies encrusting the surface of the test. These four genera are characterised by a single aperture; there