

Family III. POLYCLINIDÆ.

Colony usually massive; sometimes incrusting, sometimes lobed, or even pedunculated.

Systems of various shapes, sometimes very irregular or absent. Common cloacal apertures usually inconspicuous.

Ascidiozooids always elongated antero-posteriorly, and usually divided into three distinct regions.

Test gelatinous or cartilaginous, sometimes rendered stiff by imbedded sand-grains.

Branchial Sac usually small, and not highly developed. Stigmata usually small.

Dorsal Lamina represented by a series of languets.

Tentacles generally small and not numerous.

Alimentary Canal extending considerably beyond the branchial sac posteriorly.

Reproductive Organs placed behind the intestinal loop. Testis represented by a number of small spermatic vesicles attached to a large vas deferens.

Gemmation from the post-abdomen.

This large family, including an immense number of species, was founded by Giard in 1872. It includes five of Savigny's genera, viz., *Aplidium*, *Polyclinum*, *Sidnyum*, *Synoicum*, and *Sigillina*, all of which may still be retained either as genera or subgenera. Milne-Edwards in 1841 recognised that these forms, to which he added a sixth, *Amaroucium*, composed a natural group characterised by the shape of the Ascidiozoid. They constitute his 1^{re} tribu, Polycliniens, which is practically, after the removal of the genus *Sigillina*, Giard's family Polyclinidæ. Milne-Edwards' *Amaroucium* is probably, as Giard suggests, the same as Savigny's *Aplidium*, Milne-Edwards having had the advantage of working at living material discovered the common cloacal apertures which Savigny who examined preserved specimens only had regarded as being absent.

Alder in 1863 employed the genus *Parascidia* (which had been previously suggested by Milne-Edwards) for the reception of three species resembling *Sidnyum* in all points except that they have an eight-lobed in place of a six-lobed branchial aperture. This genus has not been recognised or discussed by any subsequent writer. Its relations to *Circinalium* and *Fragarium*, afterwards founded by Giard (see below), must be very intimate.

Giard in 1872 formally raised the Polyclinidæ to the rank of a family, from which, however, he excluded *Sigillina*, a retrograde step, since that genus is certainly more nearly allied to *Polyclinum* than to any of the Distomidæ. Giard added a number of new species to the family, and established as new genera or subgenera *Fragarium*, *Circinalium*, and *Morchellium*. His classification of the family appears to be as follows:—