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Definition.—Centro-dorsal usually somewhat hemispherical or conical, rarely discoidal, and generally bearing at least twenty cirri, often several more, which leave but little of its under surface free. Outer faces of the radials relatively high, with large muscle-plates, and much inclined to the vertical axis of the calyx.

Disk with a central or subcentral mouth and five equal ambulacra, which extend on to all the arms. These are ten or more in number, all of the same length, and may have an ambulacral skeleton which is most differentiated on the pinnules. Sacculi almost always present on the pinnules, if not elsewhere.

History.—This genus was established in 1811 by de Fréminville,¹ who was the first to remove the Feather-stars from the confusion of the Linnean genus *Asterias* and to give them a definite generic rank. A similar course was taken three years later by Leach, who was probably unaware of de Fréminville's work, and established the genus *Alecto* for the Feather-stars; but the same can hardly be said of Lamarck, who deliberately rejected de Fréminville's generic name, replacing it by one of his own making, viz., *Comatula*, and he doubtfully referred de Fréminville's species *Antedon gorgonia* to his own

¹ Mémoire sur un nouveau genre de Zoophites de l'ordre des Radiaires, *Bull. Soc. Philom. Paris*, 1811, t. ii. p. 349. In this note de Fréminville referred to an illustration of *Antedon* in the *Encyclopédie Méthodique*; and Perrier has consequently been led to mention the latter work as that in which the name *Antedon* was first proposed *Nouv. Archiv. Mus. Hist. Nat.*, t. ix., 1886, p. 79).