The Pachastrellidæ cannot, however, be included in the same family (as the higher Tetillidæ are with the lower), because they afford a new point of departure for fresh modifications of the microscleres, as is illustrated in the difference between these spicules in *Dercitus* and *Pachastrella*.

The Theneidæ are evidently an annectant group, uniting the Pachastrellidæ and the Stellettidæ with the Tetillidæ.

Genus 1. *Thenea*, Gray.

Thenea, Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond., p. 541, 1867.
„ Sollas, Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 5, vol. ix. p. 429, 1882.
„ Vosmaer, Niederl. Archiv f. Zool., Suppl.-Bd. p. 5, 1882.

History.—A full account of the history of this genus appears in my Report of the Sponges collected by the Rev. Dr. Norman from Kors Fjord, Norway (*loc. cit. supra*). It will therefore not be necessary to give more than a short summary here. The name *Thenea* was first proposed by Gray (*loc. cit.*) to include *Tethya muricata*, Bowerbank.[1] Subsequently various authors described other specimens of this Sponge without recognising their identity with it or with each other, and so bestowed new names upon them; thus we have *Tisiphonia*, proposed by Wyville Thomson,[2] *Wyville-thomsonia*, by Perceval Wright,[3] and *Dorvillia*, by Saville Kent.[4] After the resuscitation of the name *Thenea*, which it should be mentioned had been already recommended by Perceval Wright, a paper appeared by Vosmaer in which its adoption was also advocated (*loc. cit. supra*), and it may now be taken as definitely established; Carter,[5] who was inclined to another view, at length giving in his adherence.

Definition.—Theneidæ of symmetrical form, with one or more well-defined oscules, and specialised poriferous areas, in addition to pores generally distributed. The distinctive spicules are dichotriænes, which together with the other megascleres are radially arranged.

The species of *Thenea* are usually agariciform, and either radiately or bilaterally symmetrical, in the radiate forms an upper moiety is usually separated from a lower by a special poriferous recess, which is equatorial in position and either continuous or broken up into a series of more or less oval areas; the upper moiety or "pileus" bears the oscule, or oscules, and ends in a sharp "tegminal" edge, often continued into a fringe of spicules, overhanging the poriferous recess; in bilaterally symmetrical forms, from which all trace of radiate symmetry has disappeared, the distinction into a pileus and basal portion fails

[1] Bowerbank, *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, p. 115, 1872; Mon. Brit. Spong., vol. i. pp. 25, 108, 1864; see also p. 95 of descriptive part of this Report.
[2] Wyville Thomson, *Phil. Trans.*, p. 712, 1869.
[3] E. P. Wright, *Quart. Journ. Micr. Sci.*, vol. x. p. 7, pl. ii., 1870.
[4] Saville Kent, *Monthly Micr. Journ.*, p. 293, pl. lxvi., 1870.
[5] Carter, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. xi. pp. 354, 362, 1883.