

Corticata. In 1870 Schmidt¹ proposed the family Ancorinidæ to include Sponges with "anchor"-shaped spicules, but without sterrasters. The genera enumerated as belonging to the family are:—*Pachastrella*, *Sphinctrella*, *Tetilla*, *Craniella*, *Ancorina*, and *Stelletta*; all then defined by Schmidt for the first time.

In 1875, Carter proposed the group Stellettina as one of the subdivisions of his family Pachytragida, which was defined as including "Sponges more or less corticate, with a cancellous, more or less radiated structure, internally well differentiated." This family can no longer be maintained, at least not without a revision of the definition and a change in the name, as neither are any longer indicative of the Sponges it includes. At the same time in its essential features the family is a very natural one; much more so than O. Schmidt's. It was subdivided into three groups of subfamily value:—the Geodina, Stellettina, and Tethyina (Tetillidæ). The Stellettina were rightly distinguished from the Geodina by the absence of sterrasters, a distinction already made by Schmidt between his Ancorinidæ and Geodiadæ. In 1880 Carter,² recognising the essential similarity between *Caminus*, *Pachymatisma*, and *Erylus*, suggested that these genera, "although belonging to the Geodina, should constitute a different group from the *Geodia* proper." Subsequently, however, in 1883, Carter³ enlarged the contents of the group Stellettina by referring to it the genus *Erylus*, Gray (*Stelletta mamillaris* and *Stelletta discophora*, O. Schmidt), although he had previously rightly regarded *Erylus* as a Geodiid genus, and I fail to perceive the reasons for his change of view. The essential features of the sterraster are not affected by its form, and are as obviously present in the *Erylus* "disc" as in the Geodine "globose"; it is true, however, that the recurved spines which usually terminate the actines of the Geodine sterraster are not present in the Eryline, and this difference is connected with a difference in the mode of union of these spicules to form the sterrastral layer of the cortex; but these differences are less considerable than those which distinguish the sterraster, whether Eryline or Geodine, from all astral spicules of the Stellettidæ.

In 1880 O. Schmidt,⁴ in adopting the division Tetractinellida, abandons the distinction between the families Ancorinidæ and Geodinidæ as these were defined by him; and quite rightly so, since the contents of the Ancorinidæ differ far more from one another than from the Geodiidæ. The distinction has, however, been quite recently revived by Vosmaer;⁵ no reasons are assigned for this step, and the Ancorinidæ of Vosmaer are, if possible, a more disorderly assemblage of diverse forms than that of Schmidt. Including too much and excluding too much, I see no way to accepting it, and prefer to adopt Carter's group Stellettina, at the same time raising it to the value of a distinct family.

¹ O. Schmidt, Spong. Atlant. Gebiet., p. 64, 1870.

² Carter, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. vi. p. 137, 1880.

³ Carter, *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 5, vol. xi. p. 347, 1883.

⁴ O. Schmidt, Spong. Meerb. Mexico, p. 60, 1880.

⁵ Vosmaer, Bronn's Klass. u. Ord. d. Thierreichs, Porifera, p. 318, 1885.