

communicating with each other by an aperture or foramen (sometimes by more than one) in each septum.

There is little in d'Orbigny's classification or in his definition of the Order that commends itself to the student of the present day, and it is even probable that the term "Foraminifera" is more commonly associated with the general perforation of the shell-wall, which is a conspicuous feature of one division of the group, than with the character it was originally designed to indicate; nevertheless, it is certain that no other name which has been suggested—whether *Rhizostomes*, *Polypodes*, *Trematophores*, *Asiphonoïdes*, *Polythalamia*, or *Thalamophora*—has found the same acceptance amongst naturalists. The term *Polythalamia* is almost invariably used by Ehrenberg and occasionally by Max Schultze, but by others it has been seldom employed except as an alternative; and it is open to the objection that, from an etymological point of view, it is not strictly applicable to an assemblage of organisms of which a considerable proportion are monothalamous.

It may be questioned whether our knowledge of the structure and life-history of the animals constituting the Order is sufficiently extensive and well established to be used as the basis of a name, the number of types concerning which we have any information beyond that derived from their dead shells being comparatively small; but, so far as is known, the term "Rhizopoda Reticulosa" or "Reticularia," suggested by Dr. Carpenter and adopted by Prof. F. E. Schulze and others, is perfectly appropriate.

At the same time we may remember that it is to d'Orbigny we owe the first recognition of the Foraminifera as a distinct zoological group, as well as the researches which gave the first impulse to their independent study; and, in absence of any weighty argument to the contrary, rule and custom alike suggest the acceptance of the name given by him and already generally adopted.

Prof. R. Hertwig limits the application of the term Foraminifera to those forms which possess a perforated calcareous test;¹ but, as has been before explained, the designation does not refer to general shell-perforation, but to the existence of stoloniferous orifices, and in this sense it is equally true of all polythalamous species whether otherwise "perforate" or "imperforate." Nor is there much violence to d'Orbigny's original idea in accepting the orifice of *Lagena*, or analogous types, as a "foramen," though in the absence of any succession of chambers it serves only for the passage of pseudopodia. On these grounds, therefore, either the term "Foraminifera," derived from the shell or other investment, or "Reticularia," suggested by the distinctive character of the sarcode-body, is a sufficiently accurate appellation for the group, but the former has the right of priority.

Genera and Species—Nomenclature.—Much has been written concerning the existence or non-existence of true species amongst the lower Protozoa, and especially amongst

¹ *Der Organismus der Radiolarien*, 1879, p. 142.