

Family III. CHLIDONIADÆ.

Character.—Zoœcium composed of upright, free, segmented stems, springing from a stolonate network. From the segments, after the first bifurcation, arise lateral branches consisting of chains of zoœcia arising from the back near the summit. Zoœcia bicamerate; unarmed.

Chlidonia, Savigny.

Chlidonia, Savigny [1811], d'Orb., 1850.

Eucratea, Audouin.

? *Vorticella*, Linn., Esper.

Cothurnicella, Wyv. Thoms.

Character.—Free portion of the zoœcium composed of segmented tubular stems, with distant short branches, each springing from one of the internodes of the stem, and giving off numerous uniserial chains of zoœcia, one rising from the back of another near the top, and all looking one way. Zoœcia gibbous, pyriform, or attenuated downwards. Orifice prominent or subtubular, semicircular, lower lip entire, straight. The cavity of the zoœcium divided into two chambers, the hinder of which is much curved, and alone communicates with the orifice and lodges the polypide.

This very remarkable form, originally named *Chlidonia*¹ by M. Savigny, was afterwards renamed *Eucratea* by Audouin. It is, however, quite distinct from that genus, and M. d'Orbigny was fully justified in returning to the original appellation. As remarked by M. d'Orbigny (Palæont. Franç., p. 40), *Chlidonia* is clearly distinguished from *Catenicella* and *Catenaria* by its general habit; and its peculiarities appear to me to be such as fairly to entitle it to become the type even of a distinct family.

Each of the lateral branches supporting the tufts of zoœcial chains, springs from a distinct short forked internode of the non-celliferous main stem, whose internodes, as remarked by M. d'Orbigny, represent aborted zoœcia. The stem may, in fact, be regarded as a much developed radical tube, and in like manner each secondary branch and the chains of zoœcia are manifestly nothing more than successive internodes, which in the latter are dilated into habitations for the Polypides. Another remarkable peculiarity, though not one altogether confined to this genus, is seen in the partition of the interior of the zoœcium into two distinct chambers, apparently having no communication between them.

Chlidonia cordieri, Audouin (sp.) (Pl. XXVIII. fig. 11).

Eucratea cordieri, Audouin, Expl. i. p. 243, Savigny, Egypte, pl. xiii. fig. 3.

Chlidonia cordieri, d'Orb., Palæont. Franç., p. 40.

Cothurnicella dadala, Wyv. Thoms., Nat. Hist. Rev., vol. v. p. 146.

Character.—Zoœcia small, much attenuated or tubular downwards.

Habitat.—Station 186, Cape York, 8 to 11 fathoms, coral mud.

¹ Only at the bottom of the Plate.