

small median suborbicular immersed, oral avicularium. Oœcia flattened in front with a depressed circular cribriform area.

Habitat.—Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope (on a *Membranipora*).

A second lepralian species of the genus, constituted as above, is the *Gemellipora striatula*, Smitt (*loc. cit.*, pl. xi. fig. 207), in which there is apparently a small median avicularium? above instead of below the orifice.

Family XXI. ADEONEÆ, n. fam.

Escharidæ (pars), Auctt.

Character.—Zoarium erect or (rarely) encrusting, affixed either by a more or less flexible jointed or unjointed, radicate, chitino-calcareous peduncle, or immediately attached to some flexible body, either with or without a contracted base. Bilaminar except when encrusting; foliaceous, expanded and fenestrate; or branched or lobate and entire. Cells of two or usually three kinds, zoœcial, oœcial, avicularian. No oœcia of the usual type. On the front a median pore, usually simple and circular, sometimes irregularly fimbriate, or represented by a depressed perforated areola. Usually one or more sessile avicularia on the front. In the oœcial cells the pore in most cases is suboral, or placed immediately below the mouth, and usually a minute avicularium on each side. The wall of the zoœcial cells is punctate or entire, that of the oœcial always punctate.

The forms included in the group above indicated appear to constitute a natural and well marked assemblage, distinguished, notwithstanding a considerable diversity of habit, by very peculiar characters. Amongst these may be briefly noticed:

1. The existence of three distinct forms of cells.
2. The entire absence of oœcia of the usual type, whose function appears to be discharged by special cells, usually marginal but sometimes interspersed amongst the others, from which they differ in size and form, as well as in other more important respects. They are, in the first place, usually larger, and are always more or less convex, instead of depressed in front, and their wall, whatever may be its condition in the barren or zoœcial cells, is always thickly punctate, as if to afford greater facility for the aeration of their contents. In the oœcial cells also the median pore is always placed close below the orifice,¹ and is always formed originally by the upgrowth and eventual coalescence of two tubercular elevations, one on either side, by which a sort of preoral bridge of two arches is sometimes formed, beneath which is the median pore, and on the sides or lateral piers of the bridge is usually placed a minute avicularium.

When decalcified the oœcial cell appears in the form of a thick walled sac, occupied by an ovoid finely granular mass resembling the contents of an ordinary oœcium. But

¹ *Adeona pectinata* is an exception in this respect.