

and Vosmaer, though inclined to place it systematically near *Aplysilla*, do so with great reserve, "provided that its internal organisation does not differ from that of other Aplysillidæ." I am in a position to authorise this proceeding entirely. Some time after having published his paper on this form, Prof. Schulze visited a Dalmatian Island, Lesina, and there dredged up specimens of a sponge which does not admit of even a specific distinction from *Darwinella aurea*, Fritz Müller. Prof. Schulze has been kind enough to hand me over these specimens for examination, and I can state that the internal organisation of *Darwinella aurea* follows on the whole the type, anatomical as well as histological, characteristic of *Aplysilla*. Accordingly, and in opposition to Dr. Vosmaer,¹ since the family name of Darwinellidæ was established by Merejkowsky² in the year 1878, that of Aplysillinæ, v. Lendenfeld³ and Aplysillidæ, Vosmaer,⁴ only in the year, 1883, I propose to return to the former name of the family in question. The genus *Darwinella* is a good one, its horny spicules differentiating it sharply from all other Keratosa.

Aplysilla, F. E. Schulze⁵ (*Simpllicella*, Merejkowsky⁶).

Lendenfeld⁷ characterises this genus by its crust-like form and by numerous independent tree-like skeletal fibres,—a character common also to *Darwinella*. The distinction consists in the absence of spicules. This genus would be a good one only if united with the next under consideration.

Dendrilla.

Here v. Lendenfeld⁸ finds the generic character in the property that the skeletal fibres do not stand separately as in *Aplysilla*, the whole skeleton presenting a single tree with numerous secondary, tertiary, and other branches. This distinction is, however, scarcely of generic consequence. In the Spongeliidæ F. E. Schulze⁹ has described a form (*Spongelia spinifera*), which differs from other representatives of the genus in the same direction, but even more than *Dendrilla* from *Aplysilla*; yet he merely placed it as a new species in his genus *Spongelia*. At any rate *Aplysilla* and *Dendrilla* show much closer affinities with one another than with *Darwinella* or *Ianthella*.

Ianthella.

This genus was established in the year 1869 by Gray,¹⁰ as the representative of an independent family of horny sponges, and excited among naturalists a great doubt

¹ On *Velinea gracilis*, p. 444.

² *Mém. de l'Acad. d. Sci. de St. Pétersb.*, tome xxvi., No. 7, p. 44.

³ *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxxviii. p. 235.

⁴ *Loc. cit.*, p. 443.

⁵ *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxx. p. 404.

⁶ *Loc. cit.*, p. 43.

⁷ *Loc. cit.*, p. 309.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 270.

⁹ *Zeitschr. f. wiss. Zool.*, Bd. xxxii. p. 152.

¹⁰ *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1869, p. 49.